

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 199

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2017

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75¢

Volunteers join search for Saleh

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some volunteers joined authorities yesterday in the search for assistant public defender Jamal A. Saleh, who has been reported missing since Tuesday morning from his residence in Chalan Santa Lourdes, Asteo.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said they have not

found the 49-year-old Saleh, but that DPS detectives collected information. **See SALEH on Page 4**



Saleh

Kilili on shootings: 'We need to stop deaths'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) grieves the lives lost in what is dubbed as the "deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history,"

while calling for legislation to prevent a repeat.



Sablan

Sablan, through a statement from his office, reportedly joined other Democratic Caucus members on the steps of the U.S. Capitol last Thursday to mourn the victims

of gun violence and "demand action to prevent the daily tragedy of gun deaths across America."

"Every time a mass shooting like this occurs we offer prayers and condolences; we lower the flag to half-mast; but we never seem to take action to try to prevent these killings from happening **See KILILI on Page 4**



CUC launches web-based pre-paid system

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officially launched yesterday its Web-Based Electric Prepay Program available for residential and government con-

sumers in the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to CUC executive director Gary Camacho, this program has been in the works for four years and they are now accepting applications for the **See CUC on Page 4**

From left, Sen. Sixto Kaipat Igisomar, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. deputy director William Gilmore, CUC executive director Gary Camacho, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), and CUC chief financial officer Antonio Castro at the ribbon cutting and launch of the Web-Based Electric Prepay Program of CUC. Inset, an array of Nighthawk meters that will record energy consumption and can read or send commands through cellular radio access.

BEA CABRERA



INSIDE



NATION

The gunman behind the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history led a secret life that has so far thwarted investigators trying to figure out a motive for the attack.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Six decades after Sputnik, a refined version of the rocket that put the first artificial satellite in orbit remains the mainstay of Russia's space program.

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LIFE & STYLE

Tennis icon Billie Jean King is not mincing words about the many white women who voted for Donald Trump.

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Local

44 seats up for grabs in Nov. 6, 2018 elections

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The governor and lieutenant governor's seats and 42 other government positions are up for grabs in the coming general elections on Nov. 6, 2018, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez.

A source said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres may announce his intent to run as governor next month.

In December 2015, then-lieutenant governor Torres and then-Senate president Victor B. Hocog ascended to the post of governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, following the death of then governor Eloy S. Inos. At 36, Torres became the youngest CNMI chief executive.

Villagomez said the other top seat for the next year's election is the U.S. delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, a position that has been held by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) since he was elected in 2008.

Last Wednesday, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan)

held a press conference to express his intent to run for the position of the CNMI's non-voting representative to U.S. Congress.

In addition, Villagomez said July 9, 2018 is the last day to establish residency requirements and the first day for submission for nominating petitions and candidacy requirements.

Villagomez said the other positions for election are for the Senate, House of Representatives, mayors, municipal council, and CNMI Board of Education.

For the Senate, there are six seats—two each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For the House, there are 20 seats—six for Precinct 1; two for Precinct 2; six for Precinct 3; two for Precinct 4; two for Precinct 5; one for Precinct 6 (Tinian); and one for Precinct 7 (Rota).

For mayors, there are four seats—Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

For municipal council, there are nine positions—three each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For BOE, there are two seats—one for Saipan and one for Tinian.

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Defendant in alleged CW-1 scam case testifies vs co-defendants

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A defendant who entered a guilty plea in the alleged CW-1 scam case testified yesterday for the U.S. government in the ongoing jury trial of five other defendants in federal court.

Zaur Rahman Dalu testified he was arrested as part of this CW-1 scam case.

Dalu took the witness stand after Rafiqul Islam, one of the five alleged victims in the scheme, completed his testimony yesterday afternoon.

On trial are TBK Auto Cares owner David Trung Quoc Phan; Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez; Muksedur Rahman; Rahman's wife, Shahinur Ak-

ter; and Rahman's brother, Md. Rafiqul Islam.

The indictment alleged that Rahman, Md. Rafiqul Islam, and Dalu allegedly recruited alien workers in the People's Republic of Bangladesh for work in the CNMI.

Akter allegedly aided and abetted Rahman's fraudulent scheme by threatening to falsely report that he had been sexually assaulted by the complaining Bangladeshi workers.

The workers complained about not having provided work, or who asked Rahman to return their money that they paid so they could come and work on Saipan.

Phan was the president of United Brothers, which owns

» 2nd of 5 alleged victims also takes witness stand

TBK Auto Cares. Nunez was a document preparer for United Brothers.

Dalu testified that after his arrest, he had a discussion with defendant Rahman, but that he could not remember the date.

Dalu said he told Rahman that because of his action, he was in jail.

Dalu said Rahman told him not to worry because he would pay him out and have a lawyer for him.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric

O'Malley's direct examination on Dalu will continue today, Friday, at 8am.

Dalu pleaded guilty last Aug. 7 to two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting. He has yet to be sentenced.

Alleged victim Rafiqul Islam testified how Dalu recruited him in Bangladesh for a fee on promise that he would be given work in America and a lawful permanent residence status in the U.S. or "green card."

Islam said he was recruited to work as auto body repairer at \$6.05 an hour for United Brothers or TBK Auto Cares.

On cross-examination by defense counsel Bruce Berline, counsel for defendant

Md. Rafiqul Islam, witness Rafiqul Islam (same name with defendant) said he paid 450,000 Takas to Ibrahim in Bangladesh so he could come to America.

Islam said he could not remember the last name of Ibrahim although he is his relative. He said he did not get any receipt for that payment.

Islam said he went to AG Automobile Ltd. in Bangla-

desh and asked for a certification letter, stating he worked as auto body repairer from April 2009 to the present.

Islam admitted it was false as he never worked in that company.

He said it was the fake certificate that he submitted to the U.S. government.

Islam said at the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh, he was

See DEFENDANT on Next Page

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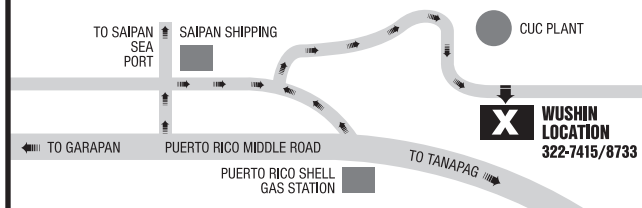
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SALEH

From Page 1

laborated with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Search and Rescue Unit in the search.

Tarkong said private citizens also participated in the search operation.

Tarkong said the search con-

centrated on the area where the lawyer was last seen or at the eastern side of the island such as Asteo and Kagman, toward Obyan.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said two DFEMS units—search and rescue unit and wildland firefighters—assisted DPS in the search.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig in an interview yes-

terday said they hope something turns up or that Saleh is fine and that “there is some sort of mistake or minor health problem or something like that.”

Hartig said Saleh is a good lawyer who has been doing a great job.

He said even their clients stopped by, asking after Saleh, to see if he is okay.

“So we are all concerned

and try to be optimistic,” Hartig said.

At the Office of the Public Defender, Hartig said, Saleh handles variety of cases as he can handle anything given to him.

“He’s doing well,” the chief public defender said.

OPD hired Saleh and his girlfriend, assistant public defender Shoshanah Epstein,

from New Mexico. The two came together to Saipan in May 2017. Saleh was admitted to practice law in the CNMI courts as an assistant public defender on June 2, 2017.

Epstein reported to work yesterday afternoon, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Police officers responded to a complaint about a missing person in Asteo on Tuesday at

11:36am.

Police learned from a witness that her friend, Saleh, is missing.

At 1:30am that same day, Tuesday, Saleh apparently could not sleep and went for a walk.

Since then, the witness texted the lawyer, but there was no reply. He has not returned home and has not reported to work.

KILILI

From Page 1

again,” said Sablan.

He added that the U.S. Congress should “enact common-sense legislation,” similar to the bipartisan King-Thompson legislation that strengthened background checks with the intent to keep guns out of the “wrong hands.”

According to Sablan, almost 12,000 people in the U.S. die from gun violence.

“It is an epidemic. We need to stop the deaths,” he said.

The U.S. just last Sunday evening experience its deadli-

est mass shooting to date at the Las Vegas strip, where the suspect, Stephen Paddock, opened fire with several military-grade assault rifles on a nearby crowd of about 22,000 concertgoers about 500 yards away.

Paddock took the lives of at least 59 people and injured 527.

Kilili unfazed by competition

Sablan also told *Saipan Tribune* that he remains unfazed after a member of the CNMI House of Representatives declared his intent to run for the CNMI delegate position in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) joined other Democratic Caucus members on the steps of the U.S. Capitol yesterday to mourn the victims of gun violence and demand action to prevent the daily tragedy of gun deaths across America.

the upcoming 2018 general elections.

After asking for comments on Rep. Angel Demapan’s (R-Saipan) intent to run, Sablan said he trusts the people to “know who they can trust to put their interests first and to always work for them.”

Sablan cited several problems that would rather focus on instead of politics. These include the proposed military build up in the CNMI; keeping the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. open beyond 2019, the period when Obamacare funding runs out; making sure there are enough workers beyond 2019; extending the

special food assistance program he got enacted to law; and renewing the asylum ban that makes Chinese tourism possible.

“There will be a time for politics,” said Sablan. “... But not now.”

“For now, I am using the experience I have gained over the last nine years, the trust I have built with Republicans and Democrats, in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate, and my understanding of how to get legislation enacted in this very complicated institution, the U.S. Congress, for the good of the Marianas,” he said.

CUC

From Page 1

pre-pay program. The ultimate goal is customer satisfaction.

“We initially tried to get this up 3-4 years ago. However, during the conversion of from 2G to 4G, it stalled the plans because the original meters were (applicable only to) 2G and therefore it wasn’t compatible. So we had to wait for some configurations, modifications and new upgrades,” he said.

“Now that we have it, we are very excited to be able to present and open it up today to our consumers,” Camacho added.

The Web-Based Electric Prepay Program experience suggests that there are many benefits for consumers and CUC alike. For eligible consumers, these include customers becoming energy efficient, reduced consumption as customers can manage and stay

within budget monthly, no bill due dates to worry about, no need for meter reading monthly, and save time by avoiding payment lines.

For its part, CUC can experience no receivables (up-front cash payments), less delinquent customers and bad debts, reduced congestion on payment lines, operational efficiency, no meter reading monthly, savings on gas and more time for other tasks, less bills and notices on print, less billing disputes to address, and ability to receive alerts for meter tampering.

The Web-Based Electric Prepay Program allows customers to benefit from a specialized meter called the Nighthawk electric meter that permits a customer to go online, get access to the customer web-portal called Pay-Go, and purchase or pay for power before they use it. The minimum kWh purchase is \$5 and max-

imum is \$99,999.

Bettina Terlaje, manager of CUC Billing and Financial Accounts, said that the Nighthawk meter talks to the Pay-Go system through cellular radio and Pay-Go sends instructions to the meter and the meter knows what to do.

“When the customer pays, it’s going to tell Pay-Go to connect the power, and when the money runs out in the account, it’s going to tell to disconnect. It is on automatic once you are in pre-paid status,” she said.

“CUC currently has 2,500 meters. We have received 25 meters into inventory, we’ve installed 419 (on Saipan), we have sent 200 to Rota, 200 to Tinian, and we will be sending more as needed,” Terlaje added.

According to Camacho, over 400 meters were installed in government accounts.

“Over the course of October, we will be testing some

of these accounts to make sure it’s on an effective and efficient implementation. We plan to get all the government accounts on board by beginning of November,” he said.

“We believe we have a good inventory. We are going to continue to acquire more of these. These are \$400 meters as opposed to the \$40 meters that we are currently using in the post-paid meters. Obviously there is an investment involved. We’ve been acquiring meters through federal grants and we are going to continue to applying in an annual basis,” Camacho added.

CUC emphasized that there is no difference between a pre-pay and a post-paid meter when it comes to consumption rate.

“What you use exactly in pre-pay is billed in the same way we bill a post-paid. The only difference is that you see a drawdown daily (from web account) whereas when you get a

bill, you see your \$7 charge and it’s only once a month. But here (pre-pay) it’s going to charge the funds. The only additional charge other than consumption charges is \$1.50 convenience fee charge which is a transaction charge,” Terlaje said.

The timeline to getting consumers enrolled in CUC’s Web-Based Electric Prepay Program takes a day unless assessors see additional requirements needed.

According to Terlaje, if the customer does not have Wi-Fi or a computer at home, pre-pay kiosks are available at the CUC payment center. However, customers, for privacy and security reasons, should personally do the purchase of pre-pay credits.

“There will be brochures and pamphlets available that provides a lot of information for the customer. They will also be receiving a customer web portal user guide so for

those first-timers they can have a walk-through process on what they need to do like set up notification options like receive email or text messages options,” she said.

Camacho said CUC is committed to find efficiencies in service to achieve savings for the consumer.

“As far as rate increases are concerned, CUC doesn’t have the control over that. Mobil Oil (Mariana Islands, Inc.) is out of our hands. If the rates drop we need to follow it and when there is an increase we need to implement it,” he said.

“So we try everything we can to provide the consumer options and opportunities to save and this Web-Based Electric Prepay Program is an efficiency matter. In this regard, we can come together and be an effective corporation and have a better relationship with our consumers,” Camacho added.

DEFENDANT

From Page 3

asked if he is an auto body repairer but was not asked about his experience for the job.

He admitted he lied to the U.S. Embassy as Dalu told him to do so or else he could not get a visa.

At present, Islam said he is working at G4S as the U.S. government gave him an Employment Authorization Document.

He said his permit is expiring in 15 days.

Islam said he owed a lot of money to people in Bangladesh.

On cross-examination by defense counsel Robert T. Torres, counsel for Rahman, he said it was at the end of

December 2014 when Dalu called him in Bangladesh.

He said Dalu promised him that he would be receiving money equivalent to 150,000 Takas per month and get a green card for working in a hotel in America.

Islam admitted that Rahman was never involved in such discussion with Dalu.

Islam said when he received a copy of the employment contract from United Brothers, he told Dalu he does not know this kind of work as auto body repairer.

Regarding payments, Islam said he first paid 50,000 Takas in March 2015; 200,000 Takas in August of 2015; 400,000 Takas in November 2015; 150,000 Takas in January 2016; 388,000 and 450,000

Takas before he coming to Saipan; 30,000 Takas to Simon Service Center fee; 2,500 Takas in fee to fill up a form; and 10,000 Takas in fee to a manpower agency.

Islam said he made the payments to Dalu’s mother and brother, who is a police officer in Bangladesh.

Torres noted that during an interview with Homeland Security Investigations Task Force Officer Jesse Dubrall on Oct. 19, 2016, Islam stated that the first payment he made was 150,000 Takas that he gave to defendant MD. Rafiqul Islam.

Witness Islam said he does not remember telling that to Dubrall.

Torres also noted that at the same interview with Dubrall, witness Islam stated that he

paid 200,000 Takas to defendant Rafiqul Islam.

Witness Islam again stated that does not remember telling that to Dubrall. He said he gave the 200,000 Takas to Dalu’s mother.

Islam said he had a receipt for his payments of 400,000 Takas, 300,000 Takas, and 388,000 Takas.

Islam said when he asked about job on Saipan, Dalu told him to call the police as he does not care.

He said Dalu was not at the airport when he first arrived on Saipan as it was only defendants Rahman and Phan who picked him up.

Islam agreed with Torres that during an interview with HSI special agent Michael Lansangan on June 23, 2017,

he stated that Dalu and his mother were responsible for his recruitment.

He said he worked for 21 days at TBK Auto Cares and received \$320 as salary.

Islam said Rahman told him that his job was to help him get a job on Saipan.

Islam agreed that he never met Rahman in Bangladesh, but only Dalu.

Islam said he gave the money to Dalu’s mother but also believed that Rahman also got some of the money.

In response to cross-examination by defense counsel Steven Pixley, counsel for Phan, Islam agreed that he never met and paid Phan in Bangladesh.

Pixley showed a employment contract with United Brothers as auto body repairer

dated Oct. 29, 2015.

Islam agreed that he had no experience as auto body repairer.

Pixley read a portion of the contract about grounds for termination that includes misrepresentation of the qualifications and skills.

Islam admitted that he misrepresented his qualifications and that he signed the contract in Bangladesh on Oct. 12, 2015.

Islam agreed with Pixley that Phan has the right to terminate him based on his misrepresentation.

On question by defense counsel Janet H. King, counsel for Nunez, Islam said he believes he could get green card by coming and working on Saipan.

Torres off to DC

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would be leaving on Saturday to meet with senior officials of the U.S. Department of Defense as well as congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. to continue discussions on the proposed CW-1 program extensions.



Torres

According to press secretary Kevin Bautista, Torres was sched-

uled to leave for the mainland last Wednesday, but his medical adviser told him to postpone his departure due to an infection.

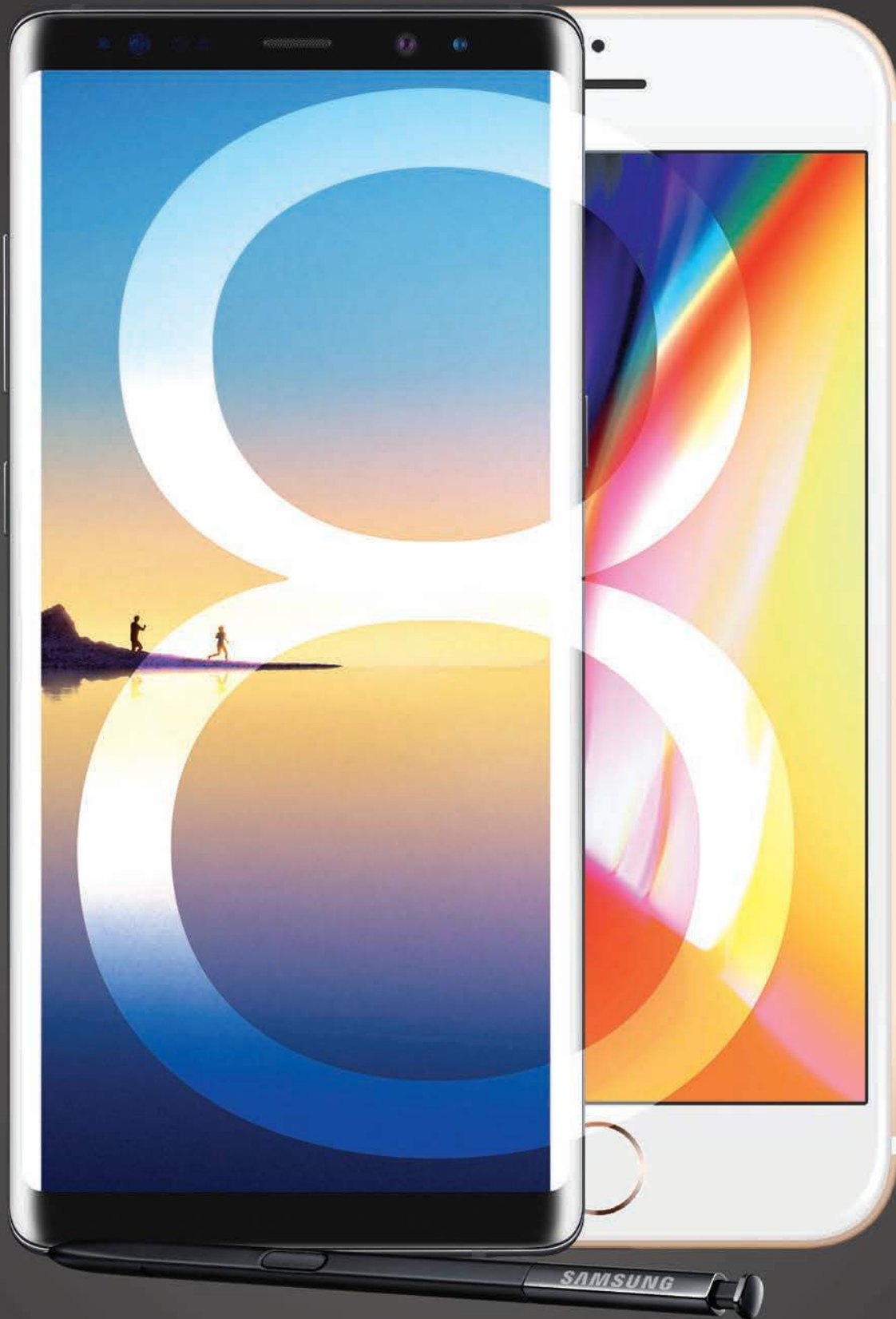
Bautista said Torres would also be meeting with senior US Department of Defense officials regarding the ongoing military buildup exercises in the Marianas.

"The data in the Government Accountability Office report from last May 2017 was clear. The truth is the CNMI does not have enough workers in all of the various fields and specialties to sustain the economic growth we need to avoid falling back into the severe economic depression we witnessed only a few short years ago. The presence of CWs and the CW program has created more jobs for our local residents because it has kept businesses up and running and allows for increased opportunities," said Torres in a statement.

Bautista added that Torres emphasizes the importance of "bringing our voices" to Washington, D.C. at a "critical time," especially when issues directly affecting the CNMI needs to be noticed by the U.S. Congress.

In the three weeks that Torres would be absent, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog would be acting governor. The DOD Office of Economic Adjustment fully funded Torres' trip. *(Erwin Encinares)*

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Ayuda Network's Camacho wins Bridge of Light award



By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prestigious Bridge of Light award was presented to Diana Camacho for her extraordinary efforts in stopping domestic violence.

The annual award is awarded to an individual who has promoted the movement to end domestic violence in the Commonwealth. Honorees nominated for the award must have been committed to enhancing the safety of victims and show continues advocacy to stopping domestic violence.

During the proclamation signing of Domestic Violence Awareness Month last Tuesday, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic

and Sexual Violence awarded Camacho, executive director of the Ayuda Network, the Bridge of Light award. Camacho is the fifth recipient of the award.

Camacho is dedicated and takes pride in keeping the community informed and aware of domestic violence.

The coalition said Camacho has aided many victims of domestic violence through outreach programs and has educated non-victims about the epidemic.

Camacho is also consistent with her participation in all events that bring awareness on domestic violence.

According to Camacho, to be recognized by the NMCADSV means a great deal to her as an advocate

against domestic and sexual violence.

For the past 13 years at the Ayuda Network, Camacho said she was able to provide advocacy support to programs that cater the needs of the community. "I have worked toward the eradication of family violence and restoration of dignity for all especially the victims," she said.

Camacho said that all the efforts she, along with the Ayuda Network, has made would not have been possible if it wasn't for the help and acceptance of the community. "We are one," said Camacho.

The Ayuda Network holds a walk for awareness of domestic violence every Wednesday. The entire community is welcome to join.

MVA invites visitors to Indigenous Cultural Expo

The Marianas Visitors Authority is lending its support to the Indigenous Cultural Expo slated for Monday, Oct. 9, on Saipan.

In addition to being a supporter of the event, the MVA is also sharing the event with visitors through its offshore offices.

"Many of our visitors have expressed that they want to experience authentic Chamorro and Carolinian culture, so the MVA is proud to be a part of the Indigenous Cultural Expo

organized by the Indigenous Affairs Office," said MVA acting managing director Judy Torres. "Should this become an annual event and with more advanced notice, we can see this becoming increasingly popular with visitors on-island as an added-value event. We congratulate the office on this inaugural event."

The expo will be held from 9am to 3pm at Guma' Sakman, the former 4-H Building in Supe on the beach. The event

is also sponsored by the Carolinian Affairs Office, Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility, and the Lady Diann Torres Foundation.

Activities will include: singing, dancing, food sales, canoe displays by 500 Sails, and a number of demonstrations, including *talaya* (throw net) fishing, fish species, hooks and baits, fish cleaning, local produce, local medicine, and various uses of the coconut tree. (MVA)



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SCS introduces project-based learning

Saipan Community School's health classes have been working through their nutrition units using a method called PBL (project-based learning). PBL is a method of learning/teaching where students gain knowledge and skills by working to solve an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge. Students are excited to take the content they learn and incorporate it into the real world.

Some of the selected projects at SCS have included: developing an online recipe book highlighting local fruits and vegetables, school gardening

plans, and presented two community wellness classes at our school's Family Fun Night.

One group of 7th graders chose to do research and work towards improving school lunches. They are sending out surveys to classmates, researching school lunch programs, and are looking for ways to make their school lunches align with what they've learned about nutrition.

Part of this project included an interview experience with registered dietician, Kaisa Anderson, who works with the CNMI public schools and school meals vendors to cre-

ate menus in accordance with USDA guidelines.

SCS wants to give special thanks to Dani Nowicki, Kaisa Anderson, and the CNMI Public School System Child Nutrition Program.

If you are interested in learning more about Saipan Community School and/or the learning opportunities we offer from kindergarten through 8th grade, contact SCS principal Amanda Dunn via email: principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call SCS' offices at 234-6687, or come visit the school on Beach Road in Susupe. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Community School
students make a presentation
on the perils of sugary
sweet drinks and snacks.



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Public support sought for CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018

Public sentiment on the legalization of marijuana is shifting in favor of the once highly stigmatized plant with many CNMI residents expressing support of a regulated market for the responsible adult use of marijuana.

The World Health Organization attributes the CNMI with the second highest marijuana usage rates in the world with an estimated 22.5 percent (approximately 1 in 4) people either growing or consuming marijuana for medical, agricultural, or per-

sonal purposes.

According to Jim Rayphand, the executive director for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), "We see first-hand people from all walks of life—many of who are *man'amko*—who rely on marijuana as the only viable option to them in lieu of expensive prescription drugs. Some cancer patients or other people suffering with gout or other pain-inducing conditions, for instance, use marijuana (whether it be in

the form of a cigarette or as a tea that they brew) for pain relief and/or as an appetite enhancer when they can't otherwise eat. In some cases, we know of individuals with mental illness who use it for its calming effect again in lieu of expensive psychotropic drugs (most of which have unending lists of negative side-effects)."

He goes on to say, "Personally, I think it's sad that in the midst of the pain and suffering that comes with the realities of terminal illnesses or

other disabling conditions, a person has to add the fear of incarceration or stigmatization for accessing the natural healing qualities of a plant."

Meanwhile, reports of problems associated with marijuana use are close to none. One local resident who asked for anonymity points out that, "If it was legal, I would get rid of my prescription drugs. I know our people have been using this thing for a long time. It's just that I don't want to break the law."

Gerry Palacios Hemley of Sensible CNMI, a local advocacy group says, "The true essence of legalization has always been to allow accessible cannabis for those who will use it for medical or non-medical purposes without the fear of arrest, harassment, and discrimination."

Subsequently, a recent Gallup poll reported that 58 percent of Americans favored the legalization of marijuana—tying 2013 for the highest acceptance rate recorded in the 46 years that the international pollster has conducted marijuana surveys. That acceptance rate, which was 12 percent in 1969 and a little more than 30 percent in 2000, accelerated after Colorado and Washington voted in 2012 to legalize marijuana for adult use.

Presently 29 U.S. states, including the island territories of Guam and Puerto Rico, have legalized marijuana for medical purposes since 1996. Furthermore, eight states, including Washington, D.C., have legalized marijuana for personal use since 2012. The number of states and territories that elected to regulate marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol is expected to continue to grow as public support for marijuana legalization, nationally, is currently around 60 percent and rising. In total, there are now about 45 states, including the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico that have some type of law in favor of cannabis.

Hemley concludes, "We have to allow the legal option for persons to exercise their fundamental right of choice as to how they use cannabis be it medically, therapeutically, recreationally, socially, religiously or spiritually or agriculturally. In fact, the war on drugs over the past 80 years has been a proven failure and the only way we can progress is to take responsibility by acknowledging where current policies have failed. SB 20-62, the CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 is our opportunity to progress in that direction for a healthier and better CNMI. Now, all that needs to be done is to place the question on the 2018 ballot and let the CNMI people decide."

Hemley reminds the public that there will be a Senate Judiciary, Government and Law Committee meeting for S.B. 20-62 on Oct. 10 at

9am at the Senate chambers on Capitol Hill. The public is encouraged to attend and listen or they can submit their verbal or written testimony. Public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will most likely take place in October with dates and times to be announced when available. Hemley states, "Legalization will not happen by itself. We as a community need to engage the issue proactively if we want this to happen. The time to act is now."

Per states that have set up regulated markets for marijuana use for responsible adult consumers, there have been some real and significant benefits to public health, safety, and quality of life for all residents. These benefits include; (1) Alternative treatment for pain and suffering for those afflicted with debilitating illnesses, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), cancer, epilepsy, and a host of other conditions, many of which are not effectively treated with synthetic prescription medications. In this respect, marijuana has become a life-saving and enhancing medical alternative; (2) A 25-percent reduction in accidental overdoses, addiction, and abuse, as medical marijuana has provided a safer alternative to far more harmful and dangerous prescription narcotics, providing evidence that approving the responsible adult use of marijuana can combat the deadly opioid crisis currently experienced in the United States. Furthermore, there is real evidence to suggest that allowing for the adult use of marijuana will help to reduce the level of methamphetamine (ICE) use and abuse in the CNMI; (3) Decreases in youth access to marijuana and usage rates among the youth; (4) Decreases in violent crime as marijuana is manufactured and sold in approved facilities by licensed businesses; (5) Decreases in negative impacts as marijuana becomes a popular and much safer alternative to alcohol and other recreational drugs; and (6) Substantial revenues generated by the growth, processing, and sale of marijuana and hemp products, with the introduction of the legal marijuana industry that has created over 100,000 new jobs, nationally, providing funding for many government and social programs. (PR)

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BTS program inspects over 200 flights and cargo

For September, the Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program, under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, inspected over 210 flights, maritime vessels, and accompanying cargo to the Commonwealth.

According to acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Augustin Kaipat, the interdiction program uses canine detection teams to screen arrivals and cargo from Guam, maintains snake surveillance trapping in and around the air and sea ports of entry for the early detection of BTS, ensures adequate program capacity to initiate a rapid response to potential BTS sightings, and coordinates ongoing BTS public awareness and outreach program within the CNMI.

Kevin Donmoyer, Brown Tree Snake program coordinator, noted that over 200 aircraft inspections for arriving commercial aircrafts on Saipan holding over 177,000 lbs of cargo were completed in September alone, with over 21 vessels inspected on Tinian and Rota.

"Airports in the CNMI are operated by an ever changing and expanding number of international commercial carriers, but the Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program is



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brown tree snake trapper and canine handler Kevin Kapileo checks the condition of a snake trap. Each trap has a potato and block of seed to keep the bait mouse hydrated and fed. The BTS Program on Saipan currently has 80 active traps deployed at the Airport and Seaport, which must be checked at least twice per week. Although no snakes have been captured in a trap on Saipan. In 2014, BTS Program staff members did capture a brown tree snake outside of the Rota Seaport in a snake trap.

only concerned with domestic flights inbound from the island of Guam. These carriers include Star Marianas, Cape Air (United), Delta, Arctic Circle Air, and Micronesia Air Cargo. Commercial aircraft inspections are crucial, which means that inspections are also done for sea vessels and military vessels as well," Donmoyer said.

Flights are met by a BTS detector canine and handler,

who inspect cargo and locations on the aircraft where BTS have been known to hide such as within landing gears. In the event a canine and handler are unavailable, non-canine trained staff perform a detailed visual inspection of the aircraft and cargo.

"Our goal is to inspect 100 percent of arrivals and cargo from Guam, even ones categorized as low risk. Our current inspection rate is close to 98



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Canine handler Joe Cruz and detector canine "Meena" approach one of the five commuter flights that arrive from Guam daily. Aside from United/Cape Air, the BTS Program also inspects flights and cargo arriving from Guam. In total it is not unusual to inspect over 40 flights and up to 3,000 parcels of cargo in one week.

percent," Donmoyer said.

In terms of military flight inspection, airports are used for staging and refueling of U.S. Air Force and Navy aircraft, Kaipat said.

"The island of Tinian also possesses a military use area as part of the international airport and the North Field training area, which makes up two thirds of the northern portion of the island, where trainings and exercises regularly occur. Most military vehicles and cargo deploy directly from Guam, making them a significant BTS hazard for the CNMI. Prior to departing Guam, vehicles and cargo are required to be inspected by USDA Wildlife Services, but the Brown Tree Snake Program also performs secondary searches upon arrival in the CNMI," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the Brown Tree Snake Program has been key to safeguarding the CNMI ecosystem and community.

"It is important to recognize the efforts of our personnel who have for years maintained this program, and continue these inspections. In the past, we've heard of snake sightings and we've been so fortunate to say that our Commonwealth is brown tree snake-free and that

our bird population is thriving. As Customs continues its crucial inspections that help our economy and prevent the influx of drugs, BTS' perseverance has helped preserve our current bird habitat and ecosystem," Torres said.

After inspections, trapping is the second line of defense against brown tree snakes.

"Traps can catch snakes that may have been missed by canines and handlers during inspections. Permanent snake traps are installed at all airports and seaports within the CNMI. Occasionally temporary traps are installed, but this is usually special-case scenarios such as military exercises or rapid response actions," Donmoyer said.

The program houses a mouse colony in which traps are baited with a live mouse which is kept alive by a block comprised of paraffin wax mixed with bird seed for food and a potato to supply water.

The last snake to be trapped outside of Guam was on the island of Rota in August 2014. The last BTS found on an aircraft in the CNMI occurred in 2000 on Saipan.

If residents see a snake they are asked to kill it and immediately call 28-SNAKE (287-6253). (PR)



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BECQ monthly cleanup this Saturday

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be at it again picking up trash at Pak Pak Beach San Antonio this Saturday, Oct. 7, starting at 8 a.m.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island please meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Pak Pak Beach entrance at 8 a.m. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10 a.m. and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding

brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three will receive a brigade T-shirt.

The BECQ is looking forward to repeat success on Saturday, so join BECQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. (PR)

NMI chapter celebrates Triskelions' anniversary

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tau Gamma Phi's Northern Mariana Islands Council chapter joined the entire Triskelions Grand Fraternity family in celebrating its 49th founding anniversary Wednesday night at the Oleai Beach Pavilion.

University of the Philippines College of Arts and Sciences' student leaders Restituto Alfonso, Rod Confesor, Romeo Fortes, Roy Ordinario, Talek Pablo, and Tito Venida formed the Order of the UP Triskelions on Oct. 4, 1968.

They were all members of the U.P. Political Science Club during the pre-Martial Law years of then Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. The Tau Gamma Sigma or the Triskelions' Grand Sorority is its counterpart.

Erick Dizon and Edwin Orejola helped form and organize the NMI Council in 2007 with Edgardo Diaz of Paranaque Chapter as the first president. Allan Hernandez is the current president.

Dizon said the Triskelions' NMI chapter started through a radio show where local members were frequently greeting each other.

"That's when we found out that there were a lot of members of the Triskelions family here. We formally organized ourselves during relief efforts to help victims of a strong typhoon in Bicol in 2006," said Dizon.

He added that they registered the chapter to the National Council in the Philippines while also enlisting as a



JON PEREZ

non-profit group at the Internal Revenue Service of the United States where they were issued a tax identification number.

Current president Allan Hernandez said the NMI Council had been active with various projects that benefit the community and also help out during disasters, especially to those affected in the Philippines.

"We not only actively participate in [United Filipino Organization] events but also organize beach clean ups, help paint some of the pavilion, and other projects that would help our community," said Hernandez, who is now on his fifth year as council president.

"We consider our annual feeding program during the trek up Mt. Tapochau during Holy Week as our biggest community project. We give food and other refreshments to people," he added.

Tyrone Garon (first vice president), Vince Sablan (second VP), Aired Murillo (secretary/treasurer), and Rodel Albalate (sergeant-at-arms) are the other NMI Council officers. The council has more than 40 active members on Saipan and Tinian.

Tau Gamma Phi Northern Mariana Islands Council president Allan Hernandez, front fourth left, joins the other officers and members of the local chapter in celebrating the 49th founding anniversary of the Triskelions' Grand Fraternity anniversary.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-17-028

TANK 104 REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL POWER PLANT 1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and Disposal of Tank 104 at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan.

The project consists, of the Cutting for Disposal and Removal of Tank 104 (now empty and cleaned) together with off-site disposal of all tank materials, including its steel floor.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-028 Removal and Disposal of Tank 104, Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 16, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil - via email max.simian@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-18-002

KAGMAN WATERLINE & BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of replacing the existing Kumoi booster station and relocating it to the Chacha and Kagman Road intersection. It also includes the rehabilitation of an existing deep well, the installation of a new 6" PVC distribution, and the installation of a new 8" PVC transmission waterline along Kagman Road. It will also involve the reconnection of existing customers onto new or existing distribution lines within the project area.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both the Pre-Bid Conference and the Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-18-002, Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 26, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nick Schreiner, Water-Wastewater, Engineer-via email address nick.schreiner@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Torres invites public to Indigenous Cultural Expo

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Carolinian Affairs Office, invites the entire community to the Indigenous Cultural Expo on



Torres Monday, Oct. 9, 2017, from 9am to 3pm at the Guma Sakman at the Civic Center in the old 4-H Club building in Susupe.

In celebration of Commonwealth Cultural Day, the Indigenous Cultural Expo will feature cultural demonstrations and entertainment.

"There are three areas of demonstrations and tasting: coconut use, fishing, and farming. With the coconut, the demonstrators will demonstrate the use of coconut in various cook-

ing techniques and weaving. With fishing, they will demonstrate net throwing, hook tying, names of fish, types of fishing lines, fish preparation and spear fishing. With

farming, they will demonstrate food preparation and planting to include local medicinal plants and its usage. All areas of demonstration will provide food tasting," said Indigenous Affairs resident executive Roman M. Tudela Jr.

"This event showcases our traditional cultural practices and will be a great opportunity for the entire community, especially our indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians, to learn and share from one another. We encourage everyone

to bring their families to enjoy the holiday by stopping by the expo," executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs John Henry I. Tagabuel said.

"There's no better thing to do on Commonwealth Cultural Day than to spend it with the family and immerse yourself in what keeps us grounded, and that is our culture. I encourage everyone to take time during the holiday to stop by and enjoy the demonstrations given by our cultural preservation leaders," Torres said.

The Indigenous Cultural Expo is supported by the Women's Affairs Office, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Public School System, the CNMI Women's Association, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, and Imperial Pacific International Inc.-CSR. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW-17-IFB-030

ROUTE 36 (WINDWARD/CHALAN KALABERA) ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0036 (004)

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Route 36 (Windward/Chalan Kalabera) Road Improvements**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **September 29, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 18, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 17, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-030"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time November 22, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 22, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@pticom.com**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 22, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **December 4, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, December 7, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on November 22, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of

the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

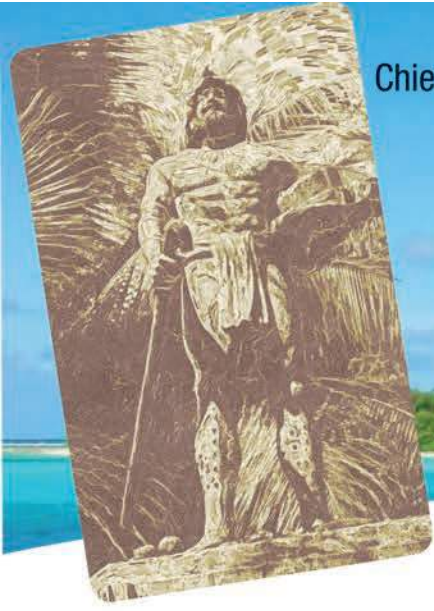
- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Five Hundred Forty (540) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (US\$3,300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply



Chief Aghurubw Foundation, Carolinian Affairs Office, and the Refaluwasch Advisory Council extends their humble and sincere appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for helping to make the

47th Annual Chief Aghurubw Commemoration

a success!

Sponsors & Donors:

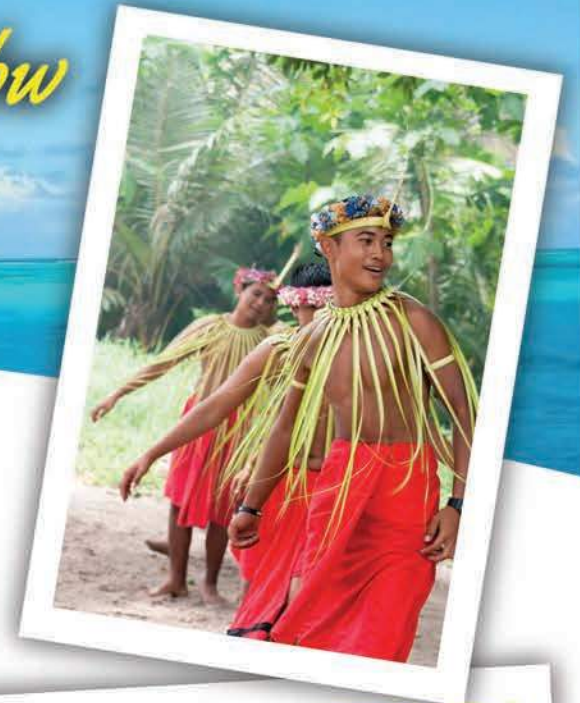
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Thank you for your presence:

500 Sails Neni
Navigators Inos and Cecelio Raiukiulipiy
Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos
Pale Isidro Ogumoro
Representative Donald Barcinas
Representative Ivan Blanco
Cultural Presenters: Delfina Mafnas, Diego Pua and Refaluwasch Warriors
Sergio & Daisy Guzman Ramirez & Family of Guam
Family, friends and community members present



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 199Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How Congress can pursue a reasonable gun debate

Columbine High School in Colorado: 13 dead, April 20, 1999.

Virginia Tech: 32 dead, April 16, 2007.

Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.: 26 dead, including 20 first-graders, December 14, 2012.

An Orlando, Fla., nightclub: 49 dead, June 12, 2016.

Now Monday's atrocity in Las Vegas: at least 59 dead, more than 500 injured when a sniper took aim at outdoor concertgoers from his perch in a 32nd-floor hotel suite.

The geography of American slaughter by firearms spans the nation, while the timeline stretches back at least to the 1966 University of Texas bell tower shootings. Just since Sandy Hook, by one count, there have been 29 shootings in the U.S. in which three or more people were killed. You probably remember the Charleston church murders (9 dead), but what about the Roseburg, Ore., spree (also 9 dead)?

After each of these horrors, the question of what can be done to prevent mass shootings arises. Then it's dispensed with because the country appears hopelessly divided over gun control. That's what happened after Sandy Hook: All those children and teachers murdered in their school, yet Congress refused to adopt any meaningful restrictions on gun ownership. So why would this week's carnage in Las Vegas be the catalyst?

Maybe it won't. Maybe Las Vegas, the worst mass shooting in modern American history, has no impact beyond its place in the roll call of tragedies. But that would be wrong, because the country is long overdue for a serious debate about firearms and murder.

Let that debate begin with an affirmation that America is suffering from a crisis of gun violence. You see it in mass shootings in public spaces across the country, and you see it in neighborhoods in Chicago, where the number of homicides this year has surpassed 500. Nothing will outlaw killing, but doing nothing shouldn't be an option.

The obstacle is American gun culture. Three in 10 American adults own a gun, and most of those people say gun ownership is essential to their freedom, according to a recent Pew Research Center study. That belief is supported by law: The Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that the Second Amendment guarantees individuals the right to own guns for self-defense.

It's safe to say repealing the Second Amendment isn't on the horizon — even after Las Vegas, in which the gunman reportedly brandished an arsenal of 23 weapons. Gun culture is so deeply entrenched in America that putting broad restrictions on ownership, such as banning assault weapons, won't happen any time soon.

The gun lobby is powerful and most conservatives embrace ownership as a fundamental right. Certainly, voters have rewarded Republicans in Congress who support gun ownership. Republicans put forth no new legislation after Las Vegas but, tellingly, they shelved for now a National Rifle Association-backed bill that would ease regulations on silencers.

Democrats, who may instinctively wish to ban certain weapons or even limit the number of firearms per household, don't have the votes, and they alone won't change the culture. Yet there are steps Congress can take that

See CONGRESS on Next Page



Don't pray for Vegas. That's not how we do things

I was one of the first to arrive at the Route 91 Harvest Festival on Sunday because I was there to review the concert for the Las Vegas Weekly. I passed through the metal detector without thinking about it. But security would not protect against a threat that never entered the concert grounds. Everybody was all smiles. This was a happy, chill day. Fortunately for me, I left before sundown.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, I've understood that some catastrophe might eventually befall my city. After the shooting at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris in 2015, I pictured being trapped in one of my favorite casinos, unable to escape.

But I also told myself it couldn't happen here. I fostered an idea, a fantasy, that terrorists may hint at attacking Vegas, but they'd never actually follow through, because even fundamentalists secretly love Sin City and don't want to ruin it. Silly, I know.

Vegas is the Wild West. Nevada's the only state where prostitution is legal, a place where gambling isn't a secret but a recognized and celebrated part of the mainstream culture. For many, owning guns is part of that culture, too. Firearms are all tied up, somehow, with freedom. Now we're going to have to think about which freedoms matter to us the most.

The freedom to live? The freedom of movement? The freedom to travel around the state and country (and check into hotels) without being scanned, searched and prodded? Or the freedom to amass arsenals of war? It's our choice. Which ones are sacred to us as a state, and as a country? This is a question of identity. Right now, it's clear who we are. Right now, we are willing to give up everything in exchange for unlimited gun access. Is that who we want to be?

My heart breaks for all who were touched by this tragedy. The victims first, but also the woman in St. George, Utah, who woke up Monday morning to discover that her husband sold a shotgun to that lunatic, Stephen Paddock. My heart breaks for the gun sellers, too. At some level they must know that they're part of the problem. They are also just one link in a supply chain that starts in a metal mine and ends with the undertaker.

The St. George gun seller, Chris Michel of Dixie GunWorx, told the local news that there were no warning signs. That Paddock was just an "average, everyday Joe Blow" no different from any of his other customers. But what if the desire to own a bunch

By C. MOON REED
Los Angeles Times*C. Moon Reed is a staff writer for the Las Vegas Weekly. Follow her on Twitter @cmoonreed and on Facebook.com/cmoodreed. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

of military-grade weaponry is in and of itself a warning sign?

Guns play into Vegas fantasies. In Vegas, you can pay good money to shoot fake zombies with a machine gun.

But this was not a Vegas crime. Paddock was not one of us, and from what we know so far he wasn't even out to punish us for the crime of living in a city of excess. He wasn't a religious nut who thought God wanted him to teach us a lesson.

We were singled out. But we're just one of many. The shooting could have happened anywhere. Next time, it will happen somewhere else.

If the crime wasn't "Vegas," then the recovery and response have been. We're a family town with about a quarter of us working in the hospitality industry. Blood donors have overwhelmed the blood banks. My friends in the culinary industry have opened their kitchens and coordinated truly heroic operations for cooking and delivering food. We're the helpers, and all the victims are our guests. We wish they didn't have to take their pain home.

I've heard from friends elsewhere that they'd like to "do something" for Las Vegas.

Here's one idea: In addition to donating money, you can put to rest the "good guy with a gun" narrative. This festival was full of good guys with guns; one of the concessions sold concealed-weapon purses made out of leather. But the good guys couldn't take out the bad guy spraying bullets from a hotel window 32 flights up.

Here's another: You can come to Vegas.

But whatever you do, please don't pray for Vegas. We're proud of the Sin City label and would rather you saved your breath for calls to your representatives. God hasn't seen fit to give us sensible gun regulations, but your representatives can.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pitfalls in tourism

October moves us into the last quarter of the year. We might as well get some business done. Here's a theme to ponder: Three common reasons that tourism businesses fail.

This is more or less a random selection from my notes taken at ground level in Saipan and elsewhere.

None of this stuff actually proves anything. It's merely anecdotal. In fact, I have a lot of caveats to put before the list.

For one thing, I don't really like the term "failed" business. A failed business is not necessarily a failed idea. Trial and error is a perfectly valid way to go about many things. With this in mind, we need a new word for an error that isn't necessarily an error and for a failure that isn't necessarily a failure. Until I find such a word, though, I'm sort of stuck with my current inventory.

If words aren't sufficient for the task, numbers don't always help us, either. Our modern, button-pushing age has fueled the conceit that we can eliminate the uncertainty from everything if we just crunch enough numbers. The risks are still out there, though, sitting in the shadows and licking their chops.

Meanwhile, it's always useful to remember that there's a large random element in any business equation. A failed business that was too early for its time, or too late for its circumstances, might have succeeded if the founder happened upon the idea at some other time. We can't catalog all the random factors, or even most of them. They're probably infinite.

Anyway, now that we've got all that stuff out of the way, we can get rolling on this little list.

Here's my first item: Trying to plant a tourism business where

the local political establishment doesn't want it.

Some of these situations are clear-cut and easy to see. Others, however, are often more subtle. I've seen a lot of money lost, and a number of projects sunk, in battles that could have been avoided if some meaningful on-the-ground research had been performed before the fact.

You don't need a Ph.D. in political science to figure out the street-level business reality of any given venue. It's far more effective to get to know some cab drivers, waiters, waitresses, shopkeepers, warehouse supervisors, bank managers, and attorneys. These people are at the transactional points of the economy.

Being able to use feedback from these people is largely a matter of understanding the difference between getting facts and getting opinions. Some people have a knack for asking the right questions. Some don't.

Anyway, assuming that a tourism business manages to take root in a locale that's accommodating, we can eventually encounter another risk: undercapitalization.

That's a fancy, eight-syllable word for not having enough money. In its early stage the only thing that eats more capital than a dying business is a thriving one. This can be a frustrating fact. I have seen people get squeezed out of the very businesses they founded because they got desperate for capital. I've never seen any elegant solutions here. I will admit I'm something of a fatalist on this note. I think this realm is steered by its own invisible logic and there's not too much point in worrying about it.

The third and final item on my list often afflicts maturing

By ED STEPHENS JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



businesses that gets complacent. We can call this item "ineffective operations."

I've seen two big pitfalls here. One is the failure to systemize the tasks necessary to run the business. Without having these tasks written down for reference and for training, things can start to unravel. Some examples of these tasks are: Ordering supplies, maintaining the grounds, backing up the computers, opening and closing the store, and dealing with certain customer service issues.

The other operational pitfall is the failure to staff a retail presence with a functional supervisory hierarchy. You've seen this in restaurants. An incoming group of eight hungry customers will be confronted with three sullen staffers who are chewing gum and playing Facebook. In the mainland this factor is quite evident in many fading, big-name retail companies.

Well, so much for my list. Now that I've heeded the business side of things I can spend the rest of the month concentrating on more important matters. Like, for example, Halloween.

Gone: Gentler days!

The ripple effects of casino here have spurred other investments, according to an announcement from the administration. It must be hopeful good tidings given the sluggish growth of the local economy.

Three issues emerge out of this feel good assertion: the insecurity of a fickle single-engine economy on tourism, piled by the obvious lack of economic diversification, and the persistent lack of a plan to develop other sectors.

Furthermore, the GAO report on the reduction of foreign workers here by 2019 predicts a huge decline in the NMI's ability to pay its debts. If the NMI doesn't impose additional taxes from casino this could exacerbate bankruptcy! When we do the *mea culpa* in Washington, they'd quiz us to death why haven't we taxed the casino business here.

Even more alarming is the NMI's obligation under the Settlement Fund that increases substantially down the stretch, e.g., \$45 million by next FY. If it defaults, it means it must make a one-time payment of some \$800 million. Which side of bankruptcy do we dig to fork out this amount? Not a very reassuring fiscal situation, is it? Is this an existential dread or threat or both?

Yet, we take a glimpse at federal policy under the Agreement that says Uncle Sam is supposed to provide for a "progressively higher standard of living..." Yet it hurled U.S. Public Law 110-229 that took away basically everything that has to do with labor, a tandem of the economy. This policy definitely needs expedited re-evaluation with the view to reinstating what was denied the NMI. If this isn't done, then prepare for persistent bankruptcy up ahead.

What is the meaning and dangers of a single-engine economy such as ours? If it crashes it instantly translates into far less revenue for the local treasury. It would force cuts in public services because of the lack of funds. Thus, insecurity seems the only currency blinking persistently on our monitor.

Review: Realistically, has development helped families here strengthen their buying power or has it gotten worse? A purposeful review is in order!

In quantifying development, statisticians use gains in average income, life expectancy or years spent in school. However, it

requires more than a simplistic probe.

"What many do not realize, however, is that such metrics, while useful, do not tell the entire story of development. In fact, to understand how developed a country is, we must also grasp how people's lives are affected by progress," according to Selim Jahan, director of the UN Human Development Report Office and lead author of the Human Development Report.

"And to understand that, we must consider the quality of the change that is being reported." The mixed metrics doesn't really show how development has affected people in the community. Yes, we've seen increase in the number of our children going to school, among others. It presents yet another query: are they learning and would the acquisition of basic education help them over the long haul?

Breakdown: We break the query down further: how has it help families throughout the NMI? If you use income, it brings into focus more than 14,000 employees who are still earning poverty income level and below. For all the "feel good" spouts about suspect growth, the quality of life is furthest from reigning-in progress to families here.

Has the NMI retired the debt of \$700 million with the old retirement program? How about some \$11 million for CDA? All these have forced the poor quality of life from inching upwards and it takes more than just "temperamental" growth to instill confidence in the future financial posture of the NMI.

Alternative: The NMI must jerk itself out of her usual mañana so it comes to grips with the fact that Santa Claus often misses the islands in December.

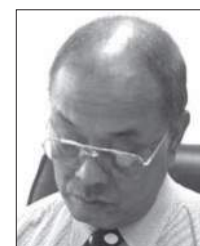
The way out of this hardship is venturing into wealth creation. In this connection, I find special interest in what Charles Koch, a Libertarian-leaning billionaire said recently about this concept or why he's giving millions of dollars to the Catholic University of America.

Turns out the chairman and chief executive officer of Koch Industries "finds two aspects of the Washington-based business school highly attractive: at the personal level, its emphasis on character and virtue; at the social level, its message that the right way to get ahead and contribute to your community is by cre-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



ating wealth and opportunity for others." He added he's "is attracted to Catholic University's effort to put the human person at the heart of business life."

It's about character and virtue and the right way to contribute to our community. "One can be in business and pursue bad profit," Mr. Koch explains. "That is, by practicing cronyism—rigging the system to undermine competition, innovation and opportunity, making others worse off. Good profit should lead you to improve your ability to help others improve their lives."

Master: Thus, life has morphed into selecting which bank turns into our lifetime master! A friend related, "I'm working on my Ph.D. but then by the end of the program I'd owe some \$280,000 in student loan." His student and real estate loans are "enough to turn the bank my lifetime master and partner!"

Smoke: No longer do we see smoke billowing above the old village when families light up the old firewood stove to cook breakfast at first break of dawn. Each day begins with roosters crowing on trees or cage outside at first break of dawn to remind us of a new day in paradise. It's gone!

Guahan: Guahan's Gov. Eddie Calvo this week appeared before the UN Special Political Committee on Decolonization and presented his people's aspiration for self-determination.

For advocates of indigenous rights, such a plan is ripe. It sets the path to allow the Chamorros on Guahan to determine their political future. Another 100 years of the same arrangement is tantamount to complete marginalization of the Chamorros at home! This would be unconscionable.

CONGRESS

From Page 14

won't run afoul of the Second Amendment but could reduce the opportunities for a madman with an arsenal to kill with impunity. Among the possibilities:

■ Require background checks for every gun purchase, including those at gun shows and transactions between private parties.

■ Limit the capacity of magazine clips to, say, 10 rounds. That would force an assailant to frequently reload or switch weapons, buying time for victims to escape and law enforcement to arrive.

■ Require gun makers to modify semi-automatic rifles and pistols so they can't be fitted with devices that convert these firearms into machine gun-like weapons.

Perhaps none of these steps would have stopped the Las Vegas gunman, though they may have slowed him down. What's more, tightening federal restrictions on gun ownership and sale could

slow the carnage in Chicago. Many weapons used by street gangs are stolen. Others, though, are bought illegally by straw purchasers in nearby states. Expanded background checks could disrupt the flow.

Mass shooters are unhinged. No effort to eradicate all violence will succeed. But if there's a chance to stop some killers, or slow them down until help arrives, the nation should act.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲ 87° ▼ 77°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲ 87° ▼ 77°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88° ▼ 78°

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

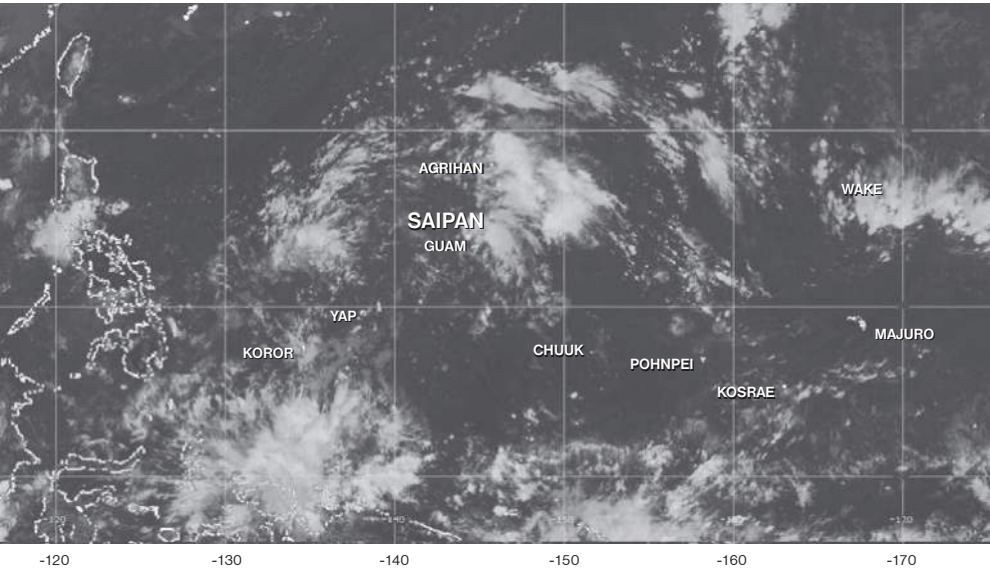
▲ 87° ▼ 77°

TUESDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲ 87° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:48 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The upper-level trough will continue to maintain partly sunny to mostly cloudy skies and a slight chance of thunderstorms through Friday. At that point, a disturbance currently near Kosrae will bring the Marianas a shot at increased showers, so the current scattered coverage looks good. After that disturbance passes south of the Marianas, it is generally expected to develop, but slowly. It should be well to the west before anything of any real consequence happens. Things could get a little more interesting after day 10. Long range models are progging the monsoon trough to approach the Marianas. The GFS keeps it to the south of the forecast zones while the Canadian ensemble brings it up into the Marianas waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 57°			
Beijing	Showers	70° / 55°			
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°			
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°			
London	Mostly Sunny	59° / 52°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	90° / 63°			
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°			
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 81°			
New York	Showers	76° / 65°			
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°			
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°			
Rome	Partly Cloudy	73° / 54°			
Salem	Mostly Sunny	85° / 68°			
San Francisco	Sunny	74° / 54°			
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 59°			
Tokyo	Rain	72° / 63°			
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 64°			

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:51 AM	LOW TIDE		0.30
7:47 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.98
2:06 PM	LOW TIDE		0.34
7:59 PM	HIGH TIDE		2.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:15 am	6:36 pm
Saturday	-	7:12 am	7:23 pm
Sunday	-	8:11 am	8:12 pm
Monday	-	9:11 am	9:04 pm
Tuesday	-	10:12 am	10:00 pm

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1	JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4	JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)				NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN			
XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7	XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6 via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

United Airlines celebrates 40th year of Guam-Japan service

GUAM—United Airlines celebrated the 40th anniversary of its service between Guam and Japan with a water canon salute and a Hafa Adai gate ceremony last Sunday, Oct. 1 at the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport on Guam. Joined by Guam Visitors Bureau, Miss Earth Guam, and Miss World Guam, the United team greeted passengers on UA Flight 827 from Tokyo, Japan (NRT) with leis at the gate and hosted a reception for passengers in the arrivals terminal.

“The 40th anniversary of the service between Guam and Japan is a significant part of United’s proud legacy as Guam’s hometown airline,” said Sam Shinohara, United’s managing director of Operations Asia/Pacific. “We are proud of our nearly 50 years of service to Guam and Micronesia and our role in the growth of tourism in the islands.”

With three daily flights



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Airlines celebrates 40 years of service between Guam and Japan on October 1, 2017, at the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport on Guam. Joining in on the historic celebration at the arrival gate were United’s Guam sales and operations teams; the Tokyo, Japan (NRT) UA Flight 827 and UA Flight 873 crews; representatives from Guam Visitors Bureau; Miss Earth Guam; Miss World Guam; and airport ambassadors.

between Guam and Tokyo, United offers the most direct non-stop flights between the two destinations and five other cities in Japan.

United Airlines and United

Express operate approximately 4,500 flights a day to 338 airports across five continents. In 2016, United and United Express operated more than 1.6 million flights car-

rying more than 143 million customers. United is proud to have the world’s most comprehensive route network, including U.S. mainland hubs in Chicago, Denver, Hous-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left: Destiny Cruz, Miss World Guam 2017; Paula Monk, senior manager Sales-Guam and Micronesia; Capt. Errol Lee, United’s flight manager-first officer; Emma Sheedy, Miss Earth Guam 2017; Shuan Lloyd, United supervisor Airport Operations; Jennifer De Rosas, United account manager-Sales Guam and Micronesia; Marissa del Rosario Tinsay, United account manager-Sales Guam and Micronesia; Julie Fejarang-LeBreton, airport ambassador; and Sylvia Perez Press, airport ambassador.

ton, Los Angeles, Newark/New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. United operates 748 mainline aircraft and the airline’s United Express carriers operate 475 regional aircraft. The airline is a founding member of Star Alliance, which provides service to more

than 190 countries via 28 member airlines. For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter or connect on Facebook. The common stock of United’s parent, United Continental Holdings, Inc., is traded on the NYSE under the symbol “UAL.” (PR)

3rd Annual Marianas Ukulele Festival on Oct. 21

The 3rd Annual Marianas Ukulele Festival is scheduled for Oct. 21, 2017 at the Garapan Fishing Base from 12pm to 9pm. The Marianas Ukulele Festival is a fun, family event featuring continuous live entertainment, local food and arts and crafts booths, ukulele workshops/demonstrations, raffle drawings, and surprises. It is free and open to the public.

Several highly established ukulele performers from Asia will be featured, including: JazzoomCafe, Mariko Uchiumi, Yusuke Saito and Nanaco



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ukulele players perform in the finale of last year’s 2nd Annual Marianas Ukulele Festival at the Garapan Fishing Base.

from Japan; Blues Lee, Vivian Kim and Ukulele Ensemble from Korea; and Vanessa

Ding from Taiwan. These off-island ukulele professionals will also be giving special live

performances at several local schools and the Man’Amko Center on Friday, October 20.

Local CNMI performers include: Saipan Community School, Alana’ia, Tata Lino Olopai & Ray Tebuteb, Sunset Cruisers, FESTPAC Warriors, Da Kine, Demalyn Pagarao, Jose Carreon & Juan Ichihara, and the Ukituki Band, among others. Workshops are scheduled from 12pm to 2pm, and open mic sessions will also be available for spontaneous performances.

Confirmed sponsors so far include: Marianas Visitors Authority, Commonwealth

Council for Arts and Culture, T Galleria DFS, Fiesta Resort and Spa, KKMP radio, Pacific Development Inc., IT&E, Island Training Solutions, Imperial Pacific (CNMI), Marianas Medical Center, Robert T. Torres Law Office, Serenti Hotel, Triple J Enterprises, Marianas Variety, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and Dave’s Electronics.

Any ukulele players/groups interested in performing at the festival should contact Larry Lee at marianasukefest@gmail.com or telephone 285-7127, or Gordon Marciano at 285-1195. Anyone interested in supporting the Festival through cash or in-kind contributions should please contact the same.

The Marianas Ukulele Festival Association is a registered, non-profit organization whose mission is: to promote and perpetuate ukulele music and heritage by bringing people of all ages together to share the love of ukulele music; and, to create an avenue for people of all cultures to share the island warmth and Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit through the enjoyment of music and culture. One of the goals of the annual Marianas Ukulele Festival is to establish the Northern Marianas as a regionally renowned cultural and entertainment destination.

For more information, please visit www.marianasukulelefestival.org. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Ralph D.L. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lt. Governor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Board Meeting is scheduled on **Tuesday, October 10, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I.	PRELIMINARY MATTERS
	a. Call to Order
	b. Roll Call
	c. Adoption of Agenda
II.	PUBLIC COMMENTS
III.	CORPORATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
IV.	OLD BUSINESS
	a. Garapan Annex RFP
V.	NEW BUSINESS
VI.	LEGAL COUNSEL’S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII.	EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII.	OTHER MATTERS
IX.	ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman of the Board

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-001-18

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT 2017
PICK-UP TRUCK/4DOOR 6CYL/4WD, AUTO
TRANSMISSION, A/C, POWER WINDOWS/DOORS
WHITE COLOR, ALL OTHER FEATURES AS PER FACTORY SPECS.
THE UNIT IS FOR THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: “PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-18”. BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLE TO CPA WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM AWARD OF THIS BID. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to October 20, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Date: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
FOR THE
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TERMINAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-003-17**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services for the project including onsite assessment, survey, possible exploratory investigation and preparation of design with plans and specifications to improve or replace the drainage system at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA’s Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA’s Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, October 13, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (30 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to airport projects – (30 points);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly, on time and within proposed schedule – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services, and the Consultant’s professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date: September 26, 2017

Miyashita is managing director title at Raymond James

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.— Jason B. Miyashita, CIMA®, CRPS®, AIFA®, senior vice president, Investments and Senior Institutional consultant at Raymond James in Maite, Guam, has been named managing director, according to Tash Elwyn, president of Raymond James & Associates.

Miyashita was also recently named a member of the 2018 Chairman's Council. Miyashita has worked at Raymond James since 2015 and has over 15 years of financial services experience.

"We're excited Jason was recognized for his dedication and excellence," said Elywn. "Being named as Managing Director is a significant achievement and is a testament to Jason's professionalism, commitment to clients and caliber as a financial advisor."

"I am delighted that Jason has achieved the managing director title at Raymond James as this title is offered only to the top financial advisors in the firm based on very specific qualifications," said Chris Horner, complex manager of the Los Angeles Western Division Complex. "Jason is currently one of the youngest managing directors in the Raymond James global network of financial advisors and we are proud to be associated with his team as one of the top teams in the Western Division."

Miyashita, a founding partner of The Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James, has more than 15 years of experience in the financial services industry and was born and raised in Guam. He is a graduate of The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania where he studied accounting, finance and strategic management and Guam's Father Duenas Memorial High School and St. Anthony School. He earned the Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA®) professional designation from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He also currently holds the Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist (CRPS®) professional designation by the College for Financial Planning and the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst (AIFA®) professional designation, awarded by the Center for Fiduciary Studies, which is associated with the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business.

Miyashita is adjunct faculty and an international conference speaker for the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies. He is an active member of the Rotary Club



Miyashita

of Tumon Bay Guam, Guam Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Palau Chamber of Commerce, and The Pacific Club in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Asia Pacific Group joined Raymond James from Morgan Stanley in 2015, where they collectively manage more than \$1 billion in client assets and are one of the firm's key institutional consulting groups in the Western Pacific U.S. region. The team, led by, Daniel A. Roland, CIMA®, AIFA®, managing director, senior vice president, Investments, and Senior Institutional Consultant; includes Miyashita; Maree C. Pelkey, AIF®, business manager and senior investment portfolio specialist; Amber Leon Guerrero, AIF®, senior

client service associate; and Reylenn Sapong, client service associate.

The advisors of The Asia Pacific Group provide a suite of investment services to public funds, endowments, foundations, corporations and high-net-worth investors focusing on managed money, wealth management, estate planning, and retirement and education planning. The Asia Pacific Group serves clients in Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, the United States and Asia.

Supporting The Asia Pacific Group for Raymond James are Los Angeles Complex Manager Chris Horner and Beverly Hills Branch Manager Andy Waldbaum. (PR)

Parents, educators, leaders talk robots in Yap

Three students from Yap represented the Federated States of Micronesia at an international robotics competition in Washington, D.C. this summer. One of nearly two hundred national and regional teams competing, the Micronesian students bested seasoned squads from developed nations including the United States and France.

Now there is talk of expanding the modest "Yap Robo League," allowing more island students the opportunity to engage in robotics through high school based clubs and classes.

A series of meetings was held in Yap this September, bringing together traditional leaders, public servants, school leaders, as well as parents and communities members to discuss the possible expansion.

The U.S.-based nonprofit "Habele" first established the Robo League in 2012, providing materials, instruction, and U.S. partner schools to Yap Catholic High School and the Yap SDA School.

Thanks to a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs, a long-standing proposal to ex-

pand the League may now become a reality. The September meetings in Yap brought together families, educators, and community members to develop the details and chart a course that ensures ownership and sustainability.

"This is hands-on learning. Robots bring together science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills, making it practical and exciting for students," explained Teresa Filepin, director of Yap's State Department of Education. "Including both public and private schools, as well the U.S.

partner schools, also sets up opportunities for partnerships beyond the robots."

The plan will provide materials, instruction, and technical support for five schools: Yap High School, Outer Islands High School, Yap Catholic, Yap SDA, and Faith Christian. Teachers and students will receive peer-to-peer support from existing Robo League members on Yap, as well as partner robotics clubs in the United States.

"The Office of Insular Affairs is pleased to provide a grant towards this pilot Sci-

ence, Technology, Engineering and Math learning project for schools on Yap and neighboring islands in the Federated States of Micronesia," said The Honorable Doug Domenech, the recently confirmed Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Insular Areas. "The Habele Robo League program not only promotes development of critical 21st century skills for Micronesian youth

but also embodies the best aspects of the U.S.-FSM relationship, a partnership and collaboration with a shared history and common goals for the success of both their people.

As robotics parts kits make their way to Yap and schools staff began technical training in late September, a year-end statewide robotics championship was tentatively scheduled for mid May of 2018. (PR)



The U.S.-based nonprofit "Habele" first established the Robo League in 2012.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yap represented the Federated States of Micronesia at an international robotics competition in Washington, D.C. this summer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MVA

In observance of World Tourism Day on Sept. 24, 2017, the Marianas Visitors Authority promoted The Marianas to 4,000 attendees of Yarmarka Travel 2017 event in Vladivostok, Russia.

MVA joins Yarmarka Travel 2017

In celebration of World Tourism Day on Sept. 24, 2017, the Marianas Visitors Authority shared dreams of paradise in The Marianas with 4,000 attendees of Yarmarka Travel 2017 event in Vladivostok, Russia.

The outdoor city-format event, organized by travel operator Fregat Aero and the local government presented the opportunity to increase awareness of The Marianas among Vladivostok citizens and to promote the Islands as the best destination for family vacations. The event was held downtown in Naberezhnaya Cesarevicha, a space popu-

lar with local residents for its beautiful walking zone and variety of family activities. Tourism offices, travel operators, local design studios, food and beverage suppliers and other companies from the Vladivostok region participated in the event.

"Absolutely, there is still strong demand for The Marianas among Far East Russia travelers like those we met at Yarmarka Travel 2017," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA continues to prime the pump for the return of the Russian market, and we are in very positive talks right now

with a couple of airlines about more convenient air service. In fact, Jeju Air has announced connections to Saipan from Vladivostok via Seoul with a connecting time of just under two hours. As far as transits go, it doesn't get any better than that, and we are anticipating an uptick in Russian arrivals as a result."

At Yarmarka Travel 2017, the MVA exhibition stand was located near the entrance of the event and featured two zones, one featuring an island and sand art projects for children and the second providing an opportunity to participants to write wishes about The

Marianas and take pictures. The MVA also shared information about The Marianas, answered questions about the destination, and distributed brochures, guidebooks, and branded giveaways.

To promote the event ahead of time, the MVA raffled snorkeling masks via its official Facebook page in Russia. To participate in the contest, SNS users had to subscribe to the account, "like" the promo post and add the comment, "Wanna swim in Saipan." Three winners were randomly chosen and received their prizes during Yarmarka Travel 2017 at the MVA exhibition stand. (MVA)



MVA

Children and their parents create sand paintings at the exhibition booth of the Marianas Visitors Authority at Yarmarka Travel 2017 event on Sept. 24, 2017, in Vladivostok, Russia.



MVA

Children and their parents create sand paintings at the exhibition booth of the Marianas Visitors Authority at Yarmarka Travel 2017 event on Sept. 24, 2017, in Vladivostok, Russia.



MVA

Svetlana Vasilevskaya, head of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Russia office, shares information about The Marianas at Yarmarka Travel 2017 event on Sept. 24, 2017, in Vladivostok, Russia.



MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority's Russia Marketing manager Denis Nikolaev, left, awards a winner of the MVA's recent Facebook contest in Russia at Yarmarka Travel 2017 event on Sept. 24, 2017, in Vladivostok, Russia. The MVA's exhibition stand also included a wish wall where attendees could write their wishes about The Marianas.

Parade, fashion show close Int'l Festival of Cultures



PHOTOS BY MVA

Various ethnic communities in The Marianas joined together for the Parade of Cultures and the final night of the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017. The annual event is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The Parade of Cultures and fashion show of ethnic attire closed the 3rd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Saipan on its final night last Saturday, Sept. 30.

A few delegations successfully braved the on-again, off-again rain in the Parade of Cultures at 4:30pm from American Memorial Park to the festival grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base. Walking delegations were the Chamorro community, Japanese community, Filipino community, Bangladeshi community, and Yapese community, while the Marianas Visitors Authority's float carried representatives of various other cultures. The parade was followed by a fashion show on-stage and a full night of entertainment.

The evening also provided the opportunity to see dumpling-making at the Chinese booth, to try on traditional Korean king and queen costumes, to learn origami or play "kade-ma" at the Japanese booth, and to commemorate the evening at a photo booth.

"A big Si Yu'use Ma'ase, Ghilisou, and thank you to all the cultural groups that came together to help the Marianas Visitors Authority plan and execute this year's International Festival of Cultures," said MVA Community Projects specialist Lynn Sablan, lead organizer for the event. "Despite the rain on a few nights, everyone came together to



Local Saipan Awaodori students represent the Japanese community during the Parade of Cultures and the final night of the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017. The annual event is organized every September by the Marianas Visitors Authority.



Members of the Korean community display their traditional attire, casual at left and regal at right, during the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017.



Members of the Chamorro community perform during the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017.

show their support and their pride. The festival was a good example of how the people of our island come together, help each other, and enjoy being together. We look forward to next year's celebration."

The festival, organized by the MVA, was held over Saturdays during September

and is scheduled from 5pm to 9pm at Garapan Fishing Base and featured ethnic food, hands-on cultural demonstrations, games, ethnic attire, arts and crafts, and more. Other participating communities were Carolinian, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Hawaii, Marshall Islands,

Palau, Chuuk, and the Philippines. Additional supporters are Office of the Governor, Indigenous Affairs Office, Carolinian Affairs Office, IT&E, Imperial Pacific Int'l CNMI LLC, Skywalker, PDM Promoters, Power 99, KKMP, and PDI. (MVA)



Members of the Tongan, Samoan, and Fijian communities display their traditional attire during the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017.



Members of the Chamorro community display their traditional attire during the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017.



Members of the Bangladeshi community display their traditional attire including sharees and panjabis during the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017.



Members of the Yapese, Pohnpeian, and Chuukese communities display their traditional attire during the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017.



Members of the Filipino community perform the "tinikling" bamboo dance during the 3rd International Festival of Cultures at Garapan Fishing Base in Saipan on Sept. 30, 2017.

Business

Study: For-profits to blame for most student debt defaults

WASHINGTON (AP)—Students who attended for-profit colleges were twice as likely or more to default on their loans than students who attended public schools, according to a federal study published Thursday.

The report by the National Center of Education Statistics looks at students who began their undergraduate education in 2003 and defaulted on at least one loan over the next 12 years. Fifty-two percent of the students who attended for-profit schools defaulted on their loan. That's compared to 17 percent for those who attended a four-year public institution and 26 percent at community college.

The report also finds that the for-profit students defaulted on their federal student loans in greater numbers than their predecessors

eight years before.

The report comes as Education Secretary Betsy DeVos rewrites rules that had been put in place by the Obama administration to protect students who said they were defrauded by their for-profit colleges.

The study also found that this group of students is defaulting on their federal student loans in greater numbers than their predecessors eight years before.

Of the students who started college in 2003, 27 percent had defaulted on at least one loan after 12 years, the study found. For those who started their undergraduate education in 1995, the default rate was 18 percent. The rate of full repayment was 20 percent in the younger group, compared to 24 in the older group.

Robert Kelchen, a professor of education at Seton

Hall University, suggested that the higher rate among the 2003 freshmen might be due to them entering the labor market at the height of the Great Recession.

Default rates were higher for those students who never completed their education, the study said. "Degree completion is a key component of a student's ability to repay their loan," said Joshua Goodman, a professor of public policy at Harvard University. "Simply attending college without completion doesn't really pay off."

Among borrowers in the 2003 group, the median amount owed after 12 years was \$3,700 for those who earned undergraduate certificates, \$11,700 for students getting associate's degrees and \$13,800 for bachelor's degrees or higher.

New cars increasingly crammed with distracting technology

WASHINGTON (AP)—The infotainment technology that automakers are cramming into the dashboard of new vehicles is making drivers take their eyes off the road and hands off the wheel for dangerously long periods of time, an AAA study says.

The study released Thursday is the latest by University of Utah professor David Strayer, who has been examining the impact of infotainment systems on safety for AAA's Foundation for Traffic Safety since 2013. Past studies also identified problems, but Strayer said the "explosion of technology" has made things worse.

Automakers now include more infotainment options to allow drivers to use social media, email and text. The technology is also becoming more complicated to use. Cars used to have a few buttons and knobs. Some vehicles now have as many as 50 buttons on the steering wheel and dashboard that are multi-functional. There are touch screens, voice commands, writing pads, heads-up displays on windshields and mirrors and 3-D computer-generated images.

"It's adding more and more layers of complexity and information at drivers' fingertips without often considering whether it's a good idea to put it at their fingertips," Strayer said. That complexity increases the overall amount of time drivers spend trying to use the systems.

The auto industry says the new systems are better alternatives for drivers than mobile

phones and navigation devices that were not designed to be used while driving.

The vehicle-integrated systems "are designed to be used in the driving environment and require driver attention that is comparable to tuning the radio or adjusting climate controls, which have always been considered baseline acceptable behaviors while driving," said Wade Newton, a spokesman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

But Jake Nelson, AAA's director for traffic safety advocacy and research, said drivers testing all 30 of the 2017 model year cars and light trucks took their eyes off the road and hands off the wheel while using infotainment systems. The test drivers used voice commands, touch screens and other interactive technologies to make calls, send texts, tune the radio or program navigation all while driving.

Clearly automakers haven't worked hard enough to make the systems quick and easy to use, Nelson said. Researchers rated 23 of the 30 vehicles "very high" or "high" in terms of the attention they demanded from drivers. Seven were rated "moderate." None required a low amount of attention to use.

Programming a destination into in-vehicle GPS navigation systems was the most distracting activity, taking drivers an average of 40 seconds to complete the task. At 25 mph (40 kph), a car can travel the length of four football fields during the time it takes to en-

ter a destination. Previous research has shown that drivers who remove their eyes from the road for just two seconds double their risk for a crash.

Under pressure from industry, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2012 issued voluntary safety guidelines to automakers for dashboard technology instead of enforceable safety standards. The guidelines recommend that automakers lock out the ability to program navigation systems while a car is moving. However, the ability to program navigation while driving was available in 12 vehicles in the study.

The guidelines also recommend automakers prevent drivers from texting while driving, but three-quarters of the vehicles tested permit drivers to text while the car is moving. Texting was the second-most distracting task performed by test drivers.

Drivers looked away from the road less when using voice commands, but that safety benefit was offset by the increased amount of time drivers spent interacting with the systems.

AAA said drivers should use infotainment technologies "only for legitimate emergencies or urgent, driving-related purposes." It also urged automakers to block the ability to program navigation systems or send texts while driving. Automakers should also design infotainment systems so that they require no more attention to use than listening to the radio or an audiobook, it said.

Nation

Gunman's secret life thwarts investigators' hunt for motive

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The gunman behind the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history led a secret life that has so far thwarted investigators trying to figure out a motive for the attack.

In an effort to try to crack Stephen Paddock's state of mind, the FBI spent hours on Wednesday interviewing his longtime girlfriend, who returned Tuesday from a weeklong overseas trip and said she had no inkling of the massacre he was plotting when he sent her to see family in her native Philippines.

"He never said anything to me or took any action that I was aware of that I understood in any way to be a warning that something horrible like this was going to happen," Marilou Danley, 62, said in a statement read by her lawyer outside FBI headquarters in Los Angeles.

Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said it's difficult to believe Paddock acted alone in the attack Sunday that killed 58 and injured nearly 500 people at a country music concert on the Las Vegas Strip.

"Maybe he's a super guy,"



Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo listens to a question during a media briefing at Metro Police headquarters in Las Vegas Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017.

Lombardo said before catching himself and calling it the wrong word. "You know, a super yay-hoo that was working out all this on his own. But it would be hard for me to believe that."

Danley, whom authorities had previously called "a person of interest," had been expected to provide insight into the mind of Paddock, a frustratingly opaque figure who carried out his high-rise massacre without leaving the plain-sight clues often found after major acts of bloodshed.

Lombardo said Wednesday that Paddock had 1,600 rounds of ammunition and

several containers of an explosive commonly used in target shooting that totaled 50 pounds (23 kilograms) in his car. But it wasn't clear what, if anything, Paddock planned with the explosives, he said.

Paddock, who set up surveillance cameras in his room and to see anyone approaching outside, also had an escape plan, Lombardo said, though he fatally shot himself as police closed in on his luxury suite on the 32nd-floor of the Mandalay Bay resort casino. Lombardo declined to say what led authorities to believe he planned an escape.

Some Republicans open to banning 'bump stocks' used in Vegas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senior congressional Republicans said Wednesday they are open to considering legislation banning "bump stocks" like the shooter in Las Vegas apparently used to make semi-automatic rifles perform more like fully automatic weapons.

The comments from lawmakers including the No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, marked a surprising departure from GOP lawmakers' general antipathy to gun regulations of any kind. But they were far from a guarantee of a path forward for the new legislation by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., especially with Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan making clear their priorities are elsewhere.

"If somebody can essentially convert a semi-automatic weapon by buying one of these and utilizing it and cause the kind of mayhem and mass casualties that we saw in Las Vegas, that's something of obvious

concern that we ought to explore," Cornyn told reporters.

"I own a lot of guns and as a hunter and sportsman I think that's our right as Americans, but I don't understand the use of this bump stock and that's another reason to have a hearing."

Cornyn later said he'd spoken with Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, and that Grassley was interested in convening a hearing.

The devices, known as "bump stocks" among other names, are legal and originally were intended to help people with limited hand mobility fire a semi-automatic without the individual trigger pulls required. They can fit over the rear shoulder-stock assembly on a semi-automatic rifle and with applied pressure cause the weapon to fire continuously, increasing the rate from between 45 and 60 rounds per minute to between 400 and 800 rounds per minute, according to Feinstein's office.

The government gave its

seal of approval to selling the devices in 2010 after concluding that they did not violate federal law.

Feinstein has a career-long history on the issue of guns after becoming mayor in San Francisco after her predecessor was gunned down. She authored an assault weapons ban that was in place for a decade before expiring in 2004, and said she had been considering trying to reintroduce that more sweeping legislation, as she's done unsuccessfully after past mass shootings, including the one at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer urged her to go with a narrower bill that might be likelier to draw support.

Feinstein pleaded with the public to pressure Congress to consider her legislation after the horrific violence earlier this week when a gunman killed 58 people and injured hundreds at an outdoor concert that she said her own daughter had considered attending.

Asia

Chemist: VX byproduct was on Kim murder suspect shirt

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian government chemist testified Thursday he found a byproduct of VX nerve agent on the shirt of the Indonesian woman on trial for the murder of the half brother of North Korea's leader.

The testimony was the first evidence linking VX to either of the two suspects accused of smearing the nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a crowded Kuala Lumpur airport terminal in February.

Government chemist Raja Subramaniam told the court he found VX acid, a byproduct of the banned chemical weapon, on Siti Aisyah's sleeveless T-shirt.

Raja said VX will degrade when it reacts with water, leaving the detectable byproducts, and a person can fully decontaminate their hands by washing and scrubbing within 15 minutes.

Witnesses who testified earlier in the trial that started on Monday said VX was found on Kim's body and belongings and acute VX poisoning caused his death.

Aisyah and the Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong have pleaded not guilty to murder charges that could bring the



Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong, left, is escorted by police as she arrives for court hearing at Shah Alam court house in Shah Alam, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017.

death penalty if they are convicted. They have not testified but their defense has said the women believed they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden-camera TV show and were tricked by men suspected of being North Korean agents.

On Wednesday, the judge and court officials wore face masks and surgical gloves as VX-tainted evidence was presented in court.

A pathologist said VX, its precursors and its byproducts were detected in Kim's eyes, on his face, in his blood and urine, and on his clothing.

Mohamad Shah Mahmood testified that the fastest absorption would have been through the eye mucus and that once VX entered the bloodstream, "there is a very slim chance of survival."

Prosecutors and defense lawyers examined the VX-tainted samples, which were sealed in transparent plastic bags, during a court break. Most of them wore gloves and masks as a safety precaution, and later, Judge Azmi Ariffin also covered himself as the samples were officially admitted as evidence.

Duterte: Chief justice, anti-graft chief face impeachment

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned on Wednesday that the Supreme Court chief justice and the head of a key anti-graft agency face impeachment complaints, in an emerging faceoff with the officials.

When asked if the legal action that he backs against the two top prosecution and judiciary officials is an assault on the government's checks and balances, Duterte told a news conference, "I did not start this ruckus."

He said Ombudsman Conchita Morales' anti-graft agency allowed the use of illegally obtained or fabricated information supposedly from the Anti-Money Laundering Council to begin an investigation into allegations Duterte kept undeclared wealth in past bank accounts.

"We will file an impeachment case against her and I would tend to believe that she was part of the conspiracy," Duterte said. He did not offer any evidence against Morales in the televised news conference.

The president's most vo-

cal critic, opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, first alleged that Duterte had unexplained wealth during the presidential campaign last year.

In February, he raised the issue again, saying Duterte had not agreed to sign a bank secrecy waiver or revealed details of more than 2 billion pesos (\$39 million) he allegedly kept in joint bank accounts with family members before he assumed the presidency.

The Ombudsman office said last week that an investigation of the allegations against the president is underway, adding it would not be intimidated by Duterte's threat to investigate alleged corruption in the anti-graft body. "If the president has nothing to hide, he has nothing to fear," it said.

Duterte has denied any wrongdoing and said it was Morales who may have violated the law if her agency was using fabricated or illegally obtained bank records from the Anti-Money Laundering Council, a financial

intelligence agency, which has denied issuing confidential bank records to the Ombudsman.

Without elaborating or offering any evidence, Duterte said Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno did not declare some of her earnings as a lawyer in one past case. He also accused her of using expensive vehicles and staying in suites on foreign trips.

Duterte has dared Morales and Sereno to tender their resignations before Congress, where he said they should offer their financial assets for scrutiny. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives are dominated by Duterte's allies.

Morales and Sereno have denied any wrongdoing and rejected Duterte's challenge.

"I will not be baited into abandoning my constitutional duties," Morales said Tuesday, adding she was prepared to answer any charges. "I expect him to answer the charges against him in the same manner."



Duterte

World

AS IT FIGHTS FOR SURVIVAL

IS latches on to global attacks

BEIRUT (AP)—Just hours after Stephen Paddock unleashed a hail of bullets on a country music festival in Las Vegas, the Islamic State group issued a flurry of statements claiming the 64-year-old gunman as one of its own. The quick responsibility claim—discounted by FBI officials—is the latest in a series of dubious or seemingly fake IS claims, reflecting the extremists' eagerness to latch onto global attacks it can tout as its own as it fights for survival in its Mideast base.

Three years after it declared its so-called Islamic caliphate across huge swaths of Syria and Iraq, IS has lost most of the territory and is on the run in its few remaining bastions. Far from the confident propaganda it pumped out when it controlled a pseudo state, the group now justifies its losses to its supporters and urges them not to give up the fight.

"It really reflects the existential crisis facing ISIS," said London-based Mideast analyst Fawaz Gerges, using an alternate acronym for the group.

Investigators are still looking for clues to explain what drove Paddock, a high-stakes gambler and retired accountant, to gun down 58 people from his high-rise hotel room in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history. The IS statement did not provide a shred of evidence to support its claim that he was a "soldier" from its ranks, saying only that the man, who it identified by the alleged pseudonym "Abu el-Bar al-Amriki," had converted to Islam three years ago. The

Associated Press reported the IS claim, but noted the group provided no evidence of a link.

Unlike previous attacks claimed by IS, there is no indication Paddock had religious or political inclinations, nor did he leave a video message of himself pledging allegiance as some attackers have. Paddock killed himself as police closed in, making it easier for IS to make the claim.

The group has a history of exaggerated, unsubstantiated or false claims, but these have picked up in frequency as its position at home became more tenuous.

In June, the group claimed an attack by a gunman who ignited a casino fire that left 36 people dead in the Philippine capital, Manila. It turned out to be a botched robbery by a heavily indebted Filipino gambling addict. The group also claimed a knife attack on Sunday that killed two women in Marseille, France, but French authorities say they have found no link between the attacker and IS.

From Orlando, Florida, to Manchester and London in the U.K., to the Champs Elysee in Paris to Bangladesh, Libya, Syria and Yemen—almost every day, the group claims responsibility for an attack somewhere in the world. Many have been at least inspired by the group. Some claims have simply been false.

The recent claims are a far cry from the carnage in Paris in November 2015 that killed 130 people, or the 2016 suicide bombings that ripped through Brussels airport and

subway, killing 32 and injuring 320. Both were said to have been planned and directed by IS.

Experts say the recent false claims are a reflection of the group's desperation to project strength and remain in the news as something other than a terrorist group on the wane.

The militants lost Mosul, their biggest prize and last major stronghold in Iraq, in July after a grueling months-long battle, and are currently holed up in a few remaining neighborhoods in Raqqa, where U.S.-backed Syrian forces are bearing down on them.

In an apparent attempt to raise morale, IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi released an audio message last week, the first since November, vowing to continue fighting and lavishing praise on his jihadists for their valor in the battlefield. He also urged followers to step up attacks and "burn" their enemies everywhere.

Gerges said the Las Vegas attack claim illustrates the extremely difficult position IS faces at home and its lack of strategic coordination.

"To take responsibility for a deranged American, a criminal American, tells you exactly that this is about media narrative. This is about trying to remain in the news cycle, trying to say we are still here," he said.

Experts say the group, which has called for lone wolf attacks in the Las Vegas strip among other landmark Western targets, has nothing to lose by making such claims.

WORLD BRIEFS

Negotiator on Iran nuke deal reportedly sentenced to prison

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A member of Iran's team of nuclear negotiators that struck the 2015 deal with world powers has been sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted in Iran of espionage, a semi-official news agency reported on Wednesday. While unnamed in the report, the only negotiator known to be facing criminal charges is dual Iranian-Canadian national Abdolrasoul Dorri Esfahani. His detention, if confirmed, would make him the latest dual national to be arrested in Iran, part of what a United

Nations panel has called an "emerging pattern" since the atomic accord. The sentencing was only reported by Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, which is believed to be close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, a hard-line force answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Guard has been involved in nearly every case involving dual nationals or those with Western ties being detained.

System growing off Central America could hit US as hurricane

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A tropical depression de-

veloping off the coast of Nicaragua is expected to dump heavy rains on parts of Central America before strengthening into a hurricane that could touch Mexico and eventually reach the U.S. mainland, forecasters and officials said. Mexico's government issued a hurricane watch from Punta Herrero to Cabo Catoche in the state of Quintana Roo with the storm expected to reach the resort-dotted stretch of coast late Friday, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. The long-term forecast showed the storm reaching the U.S. Gulf coast as a hurricane by Sunday.

Science & Technology

60 YEARS AFTER SPUTNIK Russian space program faces troubles

MOSCOW (AP)—Six decades after Sputnik, a refined version of the rocket that put the first artificial satellite in orbit remains the mainstay of Russia’s space program—a stunning tribute to the country’s technological prowess, but also a sign it has failed to build upon its achievements.

And unlike the Cold War era, when space was a key area of the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, space research now appears to rank low on the Kremlin’s priorities.

The Soyuz booster, currently the only vehicle that launches crews to the International Space Station, is a modification of the R-7 rocket that put Sputnik in orbit on Oct. 4, 1957.

Another Soviet-designed workhorse, the heavy-lift Proton rocket that has been used to launch commercial satellites to high orbits, was developed in the 1960s.

Both rockets established a stellar reputation for their re-



In this file undated photo, Soviet cosmonaut Major Yuri Gagarin, first man to orbit the earth, is shown in his space suit in this undated photo.

liability, but their record was tarnished by a string of failed launches in recent years that have called into question the Russian space industry’s ability to maintain the same high standards of manufacturing.

Glitches found in Proton and Soyuz in 2016 were

traced to manufacturing flaws at the plant in Voronezh that builds engines for both rockets. The Russian space agency, Roscosmos, sent more than 70 rocket engines back to production lines to replace faulty components, a move that resulted in a yearlong break in Proton launches.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Arrested drunk man claims he time traveled to warn of aliens

CASPER, Wyo. (AP)—Police say a central Wyoming man they arrested for public intoxication claimed he had traveled back in time to warn of an alien invasion. Casper police say the man they encountered at 10:30 p.m. Monday claimed he was from the year 2048. KTWO-AM in Casper reports that the man told police that he wanted to warn the people of Casper that aliens will arrive next year, and that they should leave as soon as possible. He asked to speak to the president of the town, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) northwest of Cheyenne. The man told police he was only able to time travel because aliens filled his body with alcohol.

Born in same hospital, on same day. Now they’re married

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP)—A couple born on the same day at the same Massachusetts hospital have exchanged vows more than two decades later. The Taunton Gazette reports that Jessica Gomes and Aaron Bairos got married Sept. 9. Each was born on April 28,

1990, at the same hospital in Taunton, about 40 miles south of Boston. The two grew up in communities a few miles apart before meeting through mutual friends in high school. Gomes says she and Bairos figured out they were born on the same day “pretty early on” when they took a drivers education class together and saw the proof on their learner’s permits. She says it was love at first sight.

Chinese man admits sneaking snakes over border in socks

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—A man who was caught trying to sneak snakes into Canada in his socks has pleaded guilty. Federal prosecutors in Buffalo say 28-year-old Chaoyi Le faces up to five years in prison after pleading guilty Tuesday to violating wildlife regulations. He was arrested in 2014 at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge in western New York after Canadian border agents discovered three live albino western hognose snakes hidden in his socks. At first, Le said he’d found them in a New York park, but eventually admitted buying them. Authorities say Le, a Chinese citizen who lives in Mississauga,

Ontario, was trying to avoid a U.S. Fish and Wildlife inspection.

Joint pain: Man charged with hiding weed in courthouse weeds

SANFORD, N.C. (AP)—A North Carolina man has been arrested and charged with trying to hide marijuana in the bushes at a courthouse before a hearing on a possible probation violation. Local media outlets reported that Lee County Sheriff Tracy Carter said 21-year-old Teon Shamal La’Shane Douglas of Sanford was arrested Monday after deputies saw him putting marijuana and a cellphone and some other items in the bushes at the courthouse. The sheriff said narcotics officers saw Douglas put about 15 grams of marijuana in the bushes at the courthouse in Sanford. Carter said Douglas was arrested after the probation hearing and charged with felony possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. It was not known if Douglas has an attorney on the latest charges.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Timang Ngirailild Aguon

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away”

The Family of Timang Ngirailild Aguon would like to inform all family, friends and acquaintances that our dearly beloved passed away on September 24th, 2017 at her residence in Saipan CNMI.

Her funeral has been set for October 14, 2017 at Borja Funeral Home. Funeral details will be announced at a later time. Evening Prayers is schedule beginning October 11th to October 13th at 7:30pm, at her brother Rufino Aguon’s residence in Talisai Avenue, Kagman II.

We, the family thank everyone for all your thoughts, help and many prayers during this time of sorrow.

In Celebration of his new life

†JOSE MUNA CAMACHO

Born to life August 23, 1951

Called to Eternal Life on September 30, 2017

In His new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Pedro Roberto Camacho and †Luisa Muna Camacho

Siblings: †Vidal Muna Camacho and †Celina Camacho Concepcion

Brother In Law: †Lawrence Larson

His memories will forever live in the heart of his:

Brother and Sisters and In-laws: Ana Larson, Rosa & John Sorensen, Greg & Adelina P. Camacho, Maria & Leighton Kahele

He will also be missed by his numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends.

Daily mass of intention is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 am.

Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017. His remains will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel beginning at 7:00 am. Holy Rosary will be recited at 7:30 am followed by Responso Service. His remains will be escorted to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please Join us in prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu’us Ma’ase

The Family

Life & Style

Billie Jean King says she's upset with women who voted Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Tennis icon Billie Jean King is not mincing words about the many white women who voted for Donald Trump, saying they “really don’t like themselves.”

King, who led the fight for equal pay for women in tennis, also says she feels there is more misogyny now than when she defeated Bobby Riggs in the famous “Battle of the Sexes” match in 1973, the subject of the new movie starring Emma Stone and Steve Carell.

“I think there’s a lot of misogyny—I think it’s higher now than it was,” King said in an interview Tuesday evening at a Manhattan awards ceremony. She was being honored by the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation, which provides gymnastics programs

to underserved communities.

“I’m really upset with women, actually,” King said. “I’m upset with the white women that voted for Mr. Trump. I think they really don’t like themselves ... I think a lot of women don’t like themselves.” She added: “Girls are brought up to be perfect and boys are brought up to be brave. Well, a girl can never be perfect. So we never can win.”

In November, 53 percent of white women voted for Trump over Hillary Clinton, exit polls showed.

King, 73, has been back in the headlines in recent weeks, promoting “Battle of the Sexes.” The film, in addition to chronicling the match that drew up to 90 million TV viewers, depicts King’s bud-

ding secret relationship with Marilyn Barnett, while she was married to then-husband Larry King. (Barnett later outed King in an unsuccessful palimony suit, causing the tennis star to lose thousands of dollars in endorsements.)

King, who has since become an activist for LGBT rights, also harshly criticized Trump’s proposed ban on transgender people serving in the military, and expressed the hope that the movie inspires activism in a new generation.

“I really want the millennials and the Gen Z to see this movie, because every generation has to fight for freedom and equality,” she said. “Every single generation. It never ends and you always keep starting over with every gen-

eration ... And if this helps one person be more comfortable in their own skin, if it helps

a parent to understand better about their own child or a relative or a friend and if that helps

give some comfort or be more comfortable as well, then that’s what I want from this.”

Jesmyn Ward among finalists for National Book Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Jesmyn Ward, Masha Gessen and Frances Fitzgerald are among this year’s finalists for the National Book Awards.

On Wednesday, the National Book Foundation announced short lists of five each in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, young people’s literature and poetry. Winners will be announced at a Manhattan dinner ceremony on Nov. 15, when Annie Proulx and publisher Dick Robinson of Scholastic will receive honorary prizes.

Fifteen of the 20 nominees are women.

Ward was cited for her haunting, lyrical novel “Sing, Unburied, Sing,” her first work of fiction since winning the National Book Award for “Salvage the Bones.” The other fiction finalists include Elliot Ackerman’s “Dark at the Crossing,” Min Jin Lee’s “Pachinko” and a pair of debut works, Carmen Maria Machado’s “Her Body and Other Parties: Stories” and Lisa Ko’s “The Leavers.”

The nonfiction nominees mostly focused on democracy and racial justice. Gessen was nominated for “The Future is History,” a look into the rise of totalitarianism in her native Russia, and Fitzgerald for “The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America.” The other finalists were Erica Armstrong Dunbar’s “Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge,” David Grann’s “Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI” and Nancy MacLean’s “Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radi-



AP

In this June 1, 2017 file photo, author Jesmyn Ward speaks at Book Expo America in New York.

cal Right’s Stealth Plan for America.”

In poetry, the nominees were Frank Bidart’s “Half-light: Collected Poems 1965-2016,” Leslie Harrison’s “The Book of Endings,” Layli Long Soldier’s “WHEREAS,” Shane McCrae’s “In the Language of My Captor” and Danez Smith’s “Don’t Call Us Dead: Poems.” The finalists in young people’s literature were Elana K. Arnold’s “What Girls Are Made Of,” Robin Benway’s “Far from the Tree,” Erika L. Sanchez’s “I Am Not Your Perfect Mexi-

can Daughter,” Rita Williams-Garcia’s “Clayton Byrd Goes Underground” and Ibi Zoboi’s “American Street.”

Panels of five judges in each category made their selections from more than 1,500 works submitted overall by publishers. The book foundation released long lists of 10 last month, with Jennifer Egan’s novel “Manhattan Bridge,” Timothy B. Tyson’s nonfiction “The Blood of Emmett Till” and Angie Thomas’ young adult best-seller “The Hate U Give” among those bypassed for the short list.

David Letterman among Jimmy Kimmel’s guests during NY visit



AP

This combination photo shows David Letterman in New York on May 30, 2017, left, and late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel in Los Angeles on April 21, 2016.

NEW YORK (AP)—Late-night legend David Letterman will be among the guests when “Jimmy Kimmel Live” returns to Brooklyn, New York, for a weeklong visit.

ABC says other guests slated for the week of Oct. 16 include Billy Joel, Tracy Morgan, Amy Schumer and Howard Stern.

Paul Shaffer, longtime bandleader on CBS’ bygone

“Late Show with David Letterman,” will sit in each night with Kimmel’s houseband, Cleto and The Cletones.

“Jimmy Kimmel Live: Back in Brooklyn” will tape before a live audience at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, where it has originated on two previous visits from its Hollywood home base.

The show airs weeknights at 11:35 p.m. Eastern on ABC.



AP

In this Sept. 19, 2017 photo, Billie Jean King, right, and partner Ilana Kloss attend a special screening of Fox Searchlight’s “Battle of the Sexes” at the SVA Theatre in New York. T

Review: JD McPherson updates classic rock and roll sounds

By **PABLO GORONDI**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JD McPherson writes and performs songs steeped in the sounds of classic rock and roll, updated with thrilling sonic details that place his third album, “Undivided Heart & Soul,” firmly in the now.

While musicians can carry virtually whole orchestras and thousands of sound effects in pocket-sized digital devices, bricks and mortar can still make a difference.

After false starts and a

search for direction—and some assistance from Josh Homme from Queens of the Stone Age—the album was made in Nashville’s legendary RCA Studio B, where the Everly Brothers, Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison and Dolly Parton created some of their greatest hits.

McPherson, who received much critical acclaim for his first two records, expands those albums’ molds instead of breaking them and each listen to “Undivided Heart & Soul” leads to the discovery of

another benchmark, from Link Wray, the Black Keys and Dave Edmunds to the Kinks’ Dave Davies, Motown and even Supergrass.

McPherson sings wonderfully, with a measured abandon. He doesn’t over-emote to sell a song but dabs enough passion on the tracks to ensure his commitment comes through clearly.

“Crying’s Just a Thing You Do Closer” has the drive of “Summertime Blues” in acoustic mode, while the lead guitar on “Lucky Penny” cre-

ates a squealing, overdriven fuzz that makes it immediately clear there’s no good fortune in that coin.

“On the Lips” has bursts of reverb to spare and the yearning “Jubilee” has an air of Amy Winehouse’s version of “Valerie” that goes beyond the rhyming titles. Closer “Let’s Get Out of Here While We’re Young” evokes Eric Burdon and The Animals at their raw best.

JD McPherson’s “Undivided Heart & Soul” deserves your undivided attention.

Is a new eclectic Nobel Literature winner on tap? Stay tuned

STOCKHOLM (AP)—After two consecutive years of unconventional choices for the Nobel Literature Prize, ob-

servers are wondering if the Swedish Academy's adventurous streak will continue. Haruki Murakami of Japan,

whose works fuse the realistic and the fantastic, and Kenya's Ngugi wa Thiong'o, whose political work forced him to

leave for the United States, are seen as top contenders for the 9-million-kronor (\$1.1 million) prize being awarded Thursday.

In 2015, a rare Nobel Literature prize for a non-fiction

writer went to Svetlana Alexievich of Belarus. Last year's award to American Bob Dylan sparked a debate about if popular song lyrics can legitimately be considered literature.

Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor whose will established the prizes, said he wanted the literature award to honor "ideal" work, without defining the term.



AP
In this January 29, 1974 file photo, singer and poet Bob Dylan performs at the Nassau Coliseum, in Uniondale, New York.

Los Angeles County coroner investigating Tom Petty's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles County coroner's department is investigating the death of rocker Tom Petty.



AP
Tom Petty performs at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn. in June 2006.

Department spokesman Ed Winter says an autopsy was conducted Tuesday but that further examination is needed to determine the exact cause of death.

Petty was 66 years old when he died Monday at a hospital. A spokeswoman said he went into cardiac arrest at his Malibu home.

No foul play is suspected, but Winter says the coroner investigates all deaths where the deceased hadn't seen a doctor in six months.

Winter says results of toxicology screening — to determine whether Petty had any drugs in his system — could take several weeks.

'Glee' actor Mark Salling admits to possessing child porn

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "Glee" actor Mark Salling has reached a deal with prosecutors to plead guilty to possession of child pornography.

The plea agreement filed Tuesday in federal court in Los Angeles states the actor is admitting he possessed images of prepubescent children.

The agreement states a search warrant found more than 50,000 images of child porn on Salling's computer and a thumb drive.

Prosecutors and Salling have agreed to ask a judge to sentence the actor to a prison term between four to seven years. He will also be required to

register as a sex offender, pay restitution and abide by restrictions on where he can live.

Salling's attorney Michael Proctor did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The actor played bad-boy Noah "Puck" Puckerman on the Fox musical dramedy.

Tom Brokaw, Colson Whitehead among new 'Library Lions'

NEW YORK (AP)—Pulitzer Prize-winning novelists Michael Chabon and Colson Whitehead, former NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and theater director Robert Wilson all have something in

common: They have been cited by the New York Public Library as "Library Lions."

The library told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the five honorees would be formally celebrated at a gala on Nov. 6. Library Lions are chosen

for their contributions to a better informed and more "thoughtful" society, especially through their efforts on behalf of culture, knowledge and new ideas.

Previous recipients include Harry Belafonte, Elie Wiesel, Steve Martin and Oprah Winfrey.

Sales pick up for Bill O'Reilly's 'Killing England'

NEW YORK (AP)—After a slow start, at least for Bill O'Reilly, his new book is gaining momentum.

O'Reilly's "Killing England" had increased sales in its second week, an unusual feat for a high-profile release. His first "Killing" work since being forced out of Fox News last spring amid numerous allegations of sexual assault sold 71,000 copies, compared with 65,000 the week before. According to NBD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of retail sales, it was last



week's top nonfiction seller.

Pre-sales for "Killing England" were well below those for last year's "Killing the Rising Sun." But his new book was helped by a surprise appearance on Fox, where he was interviewed by Sean Hannity, and has been in the top 10 on Amazon.com since its Sept. 19 release.

AP
In this Oct. 1, 2015 file photo, Bill O'Reilly of the Fox News Channel program "The O'Reilly Factor," poses for photos in New York.

Moving away isn't the answer to kid's early morning mayhem

DEAR ABBY: Suggesting that an older couple ("Upset in Washington," June 13) move to a community for people over age 55 because they're bothered by the neighbors' children playing outside early in the morning is just one more example of how we have ended up living in a world of intolerance and division.

I'm the mother of a lively 6-year-old boy, and I would suggest that what really needs to happen is a kind and thoughtful discussion about how the kids can be taught to respect their neighbors and play more quietly in the mornings. There's no reason why a compromise can't be reached.

Communities for older adults are, in my opinion, beneficial when they provide long-term care and are integrated into the larger community and society. Places that amount to self-contained towns populated only by people over 55 are the product of a society unwilling to be compassionate about different needs and priorities, and unaware of the benefits of shared intergenerational wisdom and enthusiasms.

MASSACHUSETTS MOMMY

DEAR MOMMY: Like you, many readers were against the idea of the couple being forced to move because of the noise. They offered suggestions for coping, as well as opinions about the parenting of the neighbor children. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: When people move into a neighborhood, they need to try to fit in rather than demand the neighbors accommodate them. That young mom and her kids are the newbies. The older couple has lived there a long, long time.

I say yes to getting soundproof windows. And perhaps "Up-

set's" husband should have a talk with his doctor about his health-related sleep problems. However, ultimately, the parents must take responsibility for their young kids instead of shoving them outside for the neighbors and unlucky drivers to deal with. Let the kids play inside at 8 a.m.

P.S. Sometimes, being nice to the neighbor kids and getting to know them one-on-one can make a challenging situation better. It did for me.

ALSO IN WASHINGTON

DEAR ABBY: In my neighborhood, the landscapers arrive at 7 a.m. to mow, blow and edge. The racket wakes everyone. The answer for us was the white noise machine our daughter got us. During a nap I use it because garbage trucks and delivery vans make more noise than kids playing or the school bus.

ANN FROM SUN CITY

DEAR ABBY: I called the police because of screaming children. After they came, I never heard the screaming again. Years earlier in another neighborhood, cops came to make kids stop the noise. I'll repeat what the officer told me: "Everyone is entitled to peace."

MICHIGAN READER

DEAR ABBY: There may be a local ordinance that there must be no noise before 9 a.m. "Upset" should check into this.

CLAIRE IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY: Indulgent parents who fail to teach their children respect for others breed young adults who feel they're never wrong about anything. You should have suggested the

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



children be confined to their backyard to burn off their energy.

I'm relatively certain other neighbors have been disturbed but are afraid to say anything. The retirees should ask around. Maybe if others share their annoyance, they can approach the mom as a group.

DIFFERENT OPINION IN GEORGIA

DEAR ABBY: Children have a right to play outside before school, but playing unsupervised in the street is a tragedy waiting to happen. Also, why should people who have lived in their home for 31 years have to move? It doesn't appear they had problems with other neighbors until that young family moved in. That mother should comprehend that this is not just about noise, but also about her children's safety. --

CAREFUL IN CONNECTICUT

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



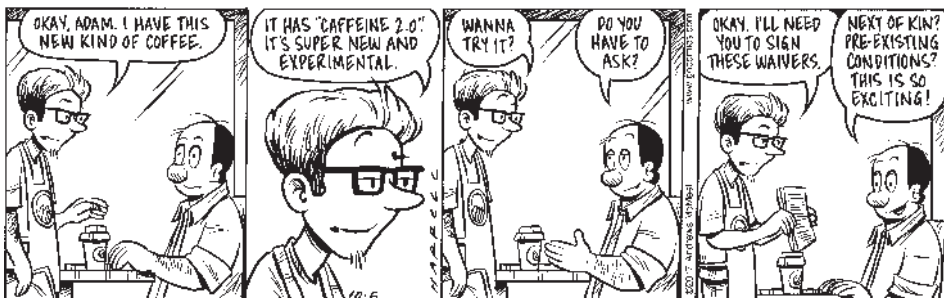
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Links org. gold

4 "Handle" Papa

8 Green Heming-way

12 Felon's flight ride?

13 Yale Interro-gate, but

14 Met solo good

15 Exhaust On the rocks

17 Group of actors Con-structed

18 Signify 52 Notable time

21 Uno + 53 Weak

22 Capital of Oman 54 Ireland's place

26 Radiance 55 Napkin's place

29 Run for fun

30 Gardner of film

31 Dorothy's dog

32 Small batteries

33 Sand

34 Gls' entertainers

35 Stately tree

36 Obeyes

37 Tiger type

39 Cistern

DOWN

3 Prayer ender

4 Sir Isaac

5 Palliative plants

6 Soviet space station

7 Arctic dwellers

8 Some are one-eyed

9 Coach Parsegh-ian

10 Insult, slangily

11 Dig in

16 Wild West show

20 Schlep

23 Give a darn

24 Eager

25 Makes lace

26 Ticket half

27 Firetruck neces-sity

28 Thames town

29 Gridlock

32 "May I do that for you?"

33 "I — kick from cham-pagne ..."

35 Corn spike

36 Lend an ear

38 "Oh, great!"

39 "Aida" composer

42 Daring Knieval

43 Antitoxins

44 Snare

45 Back talk

46 Hosp. section

47 Gents

49 Scull tool

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	O	I	S	B	A	L	E	H	B	O
O	P	I	E	I	G	O	R	E	E	K
L	E	N	D	A	N	E	A	R	A	L
O	C	E	A	N	S	O	D	D	L	Y
T	O	S	P	R	I	N	G			
L	A	K	E	S	P	A	M	E	N	D
O	B	I	H	I	T	A	B	E		
T	U	N	A	A	C	E	C	R	A	W
G	I	D	D	Y	M	A				
C	E	L	L	O	T	I	N	G	L	E
R	A	C	L	I	G	H	T	Y	E	A
A	S	A	E	S	A	U	C	N	T	O
M	E	R	S	O	B	S	N	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 10-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Sisto, 43; Amy Jo Johnson, 47; Elisabeth Shue, 54; Britt Ekland, 75.

Happy Birthday: Ease into whatever you want to accomplish this year. Refuse to let anyone prompt you into taking a risk or indulging in something before you gather all the facts. Protect against impulsive decisions or letting anyone take advantage of your generosity or kindness. Partnerships will require adjustments in order to maintain equality. Do what's best for everyone. Your numbers are 7, 13, 20, 29, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional spending, exaggerating situations and being unrealistic regarding what you can and can't do will come back to haunt you. Curb any tendency to be impulsive. Set a sturdy platform and don't deviate from your plan. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go over contracts and personal papers and see what needs to be updated. A financial opportunity may look interesting, but that doesn't mean it will be successful. Joint money ventures are not likely to turn out well. Don't try to buy love. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An unexpected change will inspire you to take on a new attitude and head in a different direction. Refuse to let anyone coax you into doing something that isn't advisable. Be true to yourself and use your skills strategically. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick close to home and do your best to live within your means. Excessive behavior or over-

reacting will only make matters worse. Concentrate on personal growth and spending time with people who are reasonable and reliable. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Family or school reunions will give you a different perspective regarding what you want to accomplish. Listen to what's said and make a point to take advantage of the information you gather and any offers made. New beginnings are featured. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your time, money and effort into securing your position, finances and home. Working toward a better future will give you a new perspective on what lies ahead and the possibilities that exist. Embrace change. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Speak up about your feelings and discuss your intentions and plans for the future. It's best to find out exactly what you are up against if you want to make a calculated decision that will result in progress. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Hard work will pay off. Your dedication and passionate attitude will help bring about new opportunities. Stay focused on what you can accomplish, not what others are up to. Being productive will result in personal satisfaction. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do your part to make things better for those less fortunate than you. Being part of a team that does its best to bring about positive change in your community will give you greater insight into your own personal growth. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be tempted to make an impulsive move or to react impatiently when discussing situations that require a lot of thought. Walk away from temptation or anyone showing erratic tendencies. Choose stability over chaos. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be tempted to make a quick expenditure. Make a point to cover your tracks and gather the information you need to avoid being stuck with something you may decide you don't want. Look at return policies. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be tempted by a proposition. Before you jump in, do your research regarding long-term benefits and pertinent details. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Proceed with caution. ***

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, playful and energetic. You are ambitious and relentless.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6		1						3
								1	
7								4	
8		5		7		9			
	7	4		1		2	3		
	2		5			7		1	
	3								2
	8								
9				8		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	3	4	6	1	5	9	2
2	6	4	5	3	9	8	7	1
5	9	1	7	8	2	4	3	6
7	4	2	3	5	8	1	6	9
9	8	6	1	4	7	2	5	3
3	1	5	9	2	6	7	8	4
6	2	7	8	9	4	3	1	5
1	5	9	2	7	3	6	4	8
4	3	8	6	1	5	9	2	7

Difficulty Level: ★★

10/7

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FRUITY FLAVORS

Solution: 12 letters

N	T	O	Y	N	O	S	M	A	D	R	I	N	K	S
O	O	L	R	O	L	E	M	O	P	H	C	N	U	P
M	M	L	R	L	E	M	O	N	S	S	T	M	R	E
M	A	I	E	P	Y	J	U	I	C	E	M	U	N	A
I	T	R	B	M	A	C	F	I	C	E	N	I	C	
S	O	A	P	R	R	P	H	N	R	E	W	A	R	H
R	L	M	S	S	G	E	A	E	D	U	R	I	A	N
E	I	A	A	H	I	R	T	Y	E	W	B	P	D	E
P	V	T	R	E	O	C	A	A	E	P	U	N	C	
B	E	V	E	R	A	G	E	P	W	L	G	M	A	T
Y	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	E	E	U	P	M	A
R	R	A	I	E	C	H	E	R	R	Y	M	K	M	R
D	A	T	E	T	Q	U	I	N	C	E	E	I	U	I
S	P	L	U	P	O	D	A	C	O	V	A	N	L	N
F	R	U	I	T	Y	R	R	E	B	L	U	M	P	E

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10/6

Apple, Avocado, Beverage, Cherry, Cranberry, Damson, Date, Drinks, Durian, Fig, Fruity, Grape, Gum, Ice Cream, Juice, Lemons, Lime, Lychee, Mandarin, Mulberry, Nectarine, Olive, Orange, Papaya, Peach, Pear, Persimmon, Plum, Pomelo, Prune, Pulp, Pumpkin, Punch, Quince, Raspberry, Sherbet, Summer, Tamarillo, Tomato, Watermelon, Wine

Yesterday's Answer: Blindfolded

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STUMPED?

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Bradley's stunning triple lifts D-backs vs Rockies



PHOENIX
(AP)—Three bags, four times.

And you wouldn't believe who got in on all the fun for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Spirited reliever Archie Bradley hit a stunning triple in the seventh inning, driving in two runs with one of four three-baggers by Arizona that sent the Diamondbacks past the Colorado Rockies 11-8 in the National League wild-card game Wednesday night.

"I think after today, I've pretty much seen everything," first-year Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "This was an incredible game."

As he watched his top reliever rounding second base, Lovullo said he thought, "Please stop. We're fine."

But that's not Bradley.

"That's just kind of who I am," he said. "I don't know any other way to play, so I was going to run as hard as I could until they told me to stop."

Paul Goldschmidt launched an early three-run homer and the Diamondbacks built a 6-0 lead before ace Zack Greinke faltered. Colorado climbed back into it and cut it to 8-7 when Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story hit back-to-back homers in the eighth off Bradley, perhaps exhausted from hustling around the bases and shouting in excitement to giddy teammates.

But then A.J. Pollock knocked in two runs with Arizona's fourth triple, this one off closer Greg Holland, as the Diamondbacks scored three times in their half of the eighth to finally put it away.

"Right away all hell broke loose," Colorado manager Bud Black said, "and from then on it was a heavyweight fight."



Arizona advanced to a best-of-five Division Series against the NL West champion Dodgers, a team the Diamondbacks beat the last six times they played. Game 1 is Friday night in Los Angeles.

The Diamondbacks became the first team with four triples in a postseason game since the Boston Americans (now Red Sox) twice hit five during the first World Series back in 1903 against Pittsburgh.

It was that kind of crazy night in the desert as two NL West foes slugged it out. Daniel Descalso also homered for the Diamondbacks, and Ketel Marte tripled twice.

"That's one of the best games

I've ever been a part of, if not the best," Goldschmidt said.

Bradley, a high-energy set-up man recruited to play quarterback at Oklahoma, went 1 for 4 at the plate this season to raise his career batting average to .098. With two outs in the seventh, he drove a 3-1 pitch from Pat Neshek to deep left-center to give Arizona an 8-5 cushion. It was his first extra-base hit in the majors and the first triple by a reliever in postseason history.

Already a fan favorite for his bushy beard and late-inning relief work, Bradley regrouped from the two solo homers he gave up to get the final two outs of the eighth

with the Diamondbacks clinging to a one-run lead.

Fernando Rodney allowed a run in the ninth before closing out Arizona's first playoff game since 2011.

Jake Lamb tied a Diamondbacks postseason record with four hits, all singles, and scored three times.

Jonathan Lucroy doubled twice, scored two runs and drove in one for the Rockies in their first playoff appearance since 2009.

Marte, who came to Arizona with pitcher Taijuan Walker from Seattle for Jean Segura in an offseason deal, became the first player to triple twice in a postseason game since Maria-

no Duncan did it for Philadelphia against Atlanta in the 1993 NL Championship Series.

The home team won for just the second time in the six NL wild-card games since the one-game format was adopted in 2012. The hosts hadn't even scored in the last three, but the Diamondbacks ended that before their first out.

Goldschmidt, in an 0-for-17 slump to end the regular season, hit the first pitch he saw from ineffective starter Jon Gray into the left-field seats for a three-run shot.

Greinke blanked the Rockies on one hit through three innings but never made it through the fourth.

The Arizona Diamondbacks celebrate after the National League wild-card playoff baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017, in Phoenix. The Diamondbacks won, 11-8, to advance to the NLDS against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Colorado, known for its power at the plate, got back into it with small ball -- five hits, four of them singles. Lucroy's two-out RBI double followed by pinch-hitter Alexi Amarista's run-scoring single made it 6-4, and Greinke was finished. He allowed four runs and six hits in 3 2/3 innings.

"We know how tough these guys are. We play 'em all the time," Goldschmidt said. "Every time we scored, we just said, 'We've got to get more, we've got to get more.'"

Left-hander Robbie Ray, a 15-game winner during the regular season, came on for his first relief appearance in three years and threw two shutout innings before giving up a leadoff double to Lucroy just below the home run line in straightaway center in the seventh. Lucroy went to third on a wild pitch before Ray fanned Ian Desmond.

Lovullo replaced Ray with another lefty, ex-Rockies pitcher Jorge De La Rosa, to face NL batting champion Charlie Blackmon, who put down a bunt that brought Lucroy home and cut the lead 6-5.

The 25-year-old Gray was 4-0 with a 2.11 ERA in his previous five starts, but the Diamondbacks were up 3-0 on him before a good share of the 48,803 in the stands settled into their seats. He lasted just 1 1/3 innings.

Cavs, 76ers get to see their tantalizing guard combinations



PHILADELPHIA
(AP)—Dwyane Wade and Derrick Rose paired in the backcourt in Cleveland. Ben Simmons finally on the floor with Markelle Fultz alongside in Philadelphia.

Two Eastern Conference teams with big aspirations got to see some of their tantalizing combinations together in their preseason openers Wednesday night.

Wade and Rose made their debuts for the Cavaliers, who got a great first impression from Kevin Love in the center spot. The former All-Star guards both scored seven points as Cleveland lost 109-93 to the Atlanta Hawks while LeBron James sat out while recovering from a sprained left ankle.

The Cavs are making Love their starting center this season and he began the game with

3-pointers for Cleveland's first two baskets.

Philadelphia started the last two No. 1 overall picks together in its 111-89 home loss to Memphis. Simmons, who missed all of last season recovering from a broken foot, showed his versatility with six points, nine assists and seven rebounds. He shot only 2 for 8 and Fultz was worse at 2 for 13, finishing with four points in his first game.

Dennis Schroder had 18 points as the Hawks earned their first preseason victory.

Love finished with 12 points and five rebounds in 15 minutes.

Taurean Prince had 15 points and eight rebounds. Dewayne Dedmon was 6 for 7 from the field and scored 13 points.

Jae Crowder, acquired from Boston in the Kyrie Irving trade, started and scored eight

points. Iman Shumpert played a little over two minutes off the bench before leaving with a foot injury. Kyle Korver shot 1 for 8, 1 for 7 behind the arc, against his former team. Rookie Cedi Osman from Turkey had six points in 16 minutes of his debut.

Brandon Wright scored 16 points as the Grizzlies improved to 2-0 in the preseason after a 111-89 win over the 76ers.

Jahlil Okafor and Robert Covington each scored 13 for the 76ers.

Mike Conley and Marc Gasol sat out. Chandler Parsons played 18 minutes and had five points. ... Andrew Harrison scored 14 points and Jamiel Green had 11.

JJ Redick scored 11 points in his 76ers debut. Joel Embiid and Dario Saric, who finished second and third in last season's Rookie of the Year vot-

ing, didn't play. Emeka Okafor, the former No. 2 overall pick trying to make an NBA comeback from back injuries, had two points in 9 1/2 minutes.

Hornets 108, Pistons 106

Rookie Malik Monk scored 12 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter as Charlotte spoiled Detroit's first game at Little Caesars Arena.

Andre Drummond had 16 points and 15 rebounds in the Pistons' preseason opener.

Nicolas Batum sprained his left elbow and left 49 seconds into the game. Jeremy Lamb scored 18 points off the bench. Dwight Howard had 12 points and 11 rebounds. Frank Kaminsky scored 13 points and Kemba Walker, Marvin Williams and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist all had 10.

Avery Bradley scored 14 points in his first game

since coming from Boston in a trade.

Pacers 108, Bucks 86

Myles Turner and Lance Stephenson each scored 17 points in Indiana's preseason opener.

Gary Payton II had 15 points for a Milwaukee team that put no players in double figures.

Victor Oladipo, in his first game since coming from Oklahoma City in the Paul George trade, scored 15 points. Domantas Sabonis, the other player acquired in the deal, shot 3 for 11 off the bench for eight points in 14 minutes. Darren Collison finished with 10 points, seven steals and five assists.

All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo remains out following the death of his father. Also sitting out for the Bucks were Jabari Parker, Thon Maker, Jason Terry and Matthew Del-

lavedova. Rookie of the Year Malcolm Brogdon had five points and three assists.

Mavericks 118, Bulls 71

Harrison Barnes scored 17 points, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. added 14 and Dallas cruised to its second victory in two preseason games.

Robin Lopez and Paul Zipser each had 12 for the Bulls.

Chicago may have run out of gas playing for the second straight night. After a 26-point first quarter, the Bulls limped to the final buzzer with quarters of 17, 17 and 11 points.

Nuggets 128, Lakers 107

Kenneth Faried had 25 points and seven rebounds in Denver's second victory in three nights over the winless Lakers.

Rookie Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points in a game where both teams rested top players in Ontario, California.

US in must-win situation against Panama

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Months and months of stumbles have put the United States in a precarious position. The Americans could miss the World Cup for the first time since 1986.

Preparing for Friday's crucial qualifier against Panama, the U.S. held a closed-doors scrimmage Wednesday against Orlando City's B team. A victory Friday would put the U.S. on track to reach its eighth straight World Cup with a win or possibly a tie at Trinidad and Tobago next week. Less than a victory against the Panamanians could lead to either a play-off next month or elimination.

"There's been a real sense of urgency," captain Michael Bradley said. "Obviously you get to the end and our margin for error is virtually gone."

Mexico has 18 points and has clinched one of the three berths from North and Central America and the Caribbean. Costa Rica has 15 points heading into its game against visiting Honduras and is on the verge of clinching.

Panama is third with 10 points, and the U.S. has nine and leads Honduras on goal difference. Trinidad has three points and is all-but-eliminated.

The top three nations qual-



AP
The United States team stretch as they warm up during a soccer training session, Monday, Oct. 2, 2017, in Sanford, Fla. The United States hosts Panama in a World Cup qualifying match on Friday, Oct. 6.

the bar tilts in our favor, where we're mobile and aggressive."

After an 0-2 start in qualifying, the U.S. climbed back into contention before last month's 2-0 home loss to Costa Rica in Harrison, New Jersey. A significant percentage of the crowd at Red Bull Arena backed Los Ticos.

American players are hoping for a better atmosphere in Orlando.

"I'm expecting it to be a home game. We're in the United States," Arriola said. "This time I hope that it's filled with all Americans."

Bradley let a question go by without an answer when asked about players had discussed any signs of unity or protest, such as the ones in the opening weeks of the NFL season.

The U.S. Soccer Federation said it had received permission from FIFA to hold a moment of silence before the match in memory of the victims of the Las Vegas shootings.

ify, and fourth place has a home-and-home playoff next month against Australia or Syria—which plays its home games in Malaysia.

"People can come in and say it's just another game, but the reality is it's not just another game," winger Paul Arriola said. "We can be out. We could really,

really complicate ourselves if we don't get three points this next game against Panama."

The U.S. has scored just 12 goals in eight matches in the hexagonal, half in a home rout over Honduras in Arena's first placed Jurgen Klinsmann. One



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

of Arena's more intriguing roster decisions was to bring back 32-year-old midfielder Benny Feilhaber, who hasn't appeared in a qualifier in eight years.

"He's a good passer, of the field he has some qualities that I think

we're lacking," Arena said.

Christian Pulisic, the star American midfielder who just turned 19, has been repeatedly fouled by opponents, and the U.S. will be seeking more offensive outlets.

Bradley said the goal is "to make sure that from the beginning we play in a way where

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Rivers hopes his durability can inspire struggling Chargers



**C O S T A
MESA, Calif.**

(AP)—Philip Rivers and Eli Manning will always be linked by the 2004 trade between the then-San Diego Chargers and New York Giants that featured the two top-four draft picks.

Rivers would rather focus on the longevity and durability that both quarterbacks have displayed.

"I think that's just what you'd expect, especially the trade and how it all went down, and then we're both still with the same team. He got a little bit of a head start as far as playing. I think we've both been out there combined, shoot, almost 400 games in a row," Rivers said.

Rivers came close with his guess. Manning will make his 204th straight start Sunday and is only four games away from tying brother Peyton Manning for the second-most consecutive starts by a quarterback in NFL history. Rivers will be playing in his 181st straight game, trailing only Brett Favre and the two Mannings.

The streak is nothing new for Rivers. Before backing up Drew Brees in his first two seasons with the Chargers, his Little League Baseball days might have been the only oth-



Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers (17) is sacked by Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Beau Allen during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, in Carson, Calif.

er time Rivers wasn't playing on a regular basis.

"Other than the two years I watched here, I haven't been on the sideline for many games," Rivers said.

Now in his 12th season as a starter, Rivers understands that luck has played a major part in his availability, but does cite his tenacity in being out there every week. While some of his

contemporaries have turned to cutting-edge workout, rehabilitation and nutrition regimens to prolong their careers, Rivers still chooses to "rub a little dirt on it and go," even as it takes his body longer to move past the soreness of the previous game.

"I do have that desire to want to be out there at all costs every week," Rivers said.

"Thankfully, I haven't had anything other than the knee deal in that '07 season that has been super, super jeopardizing. Maybe a few other little things that were just uncomfortable, but I'm just thankful that I've been able to be out there."

Rivers credits his father for instilling that attitude at an early age, and believes it can

and does filter through to the rest of the locker room. The Los Angeles Chargers will need it as they try to shake off their first 0-4 start since 2003 against the winless and equally desperate Giants.

"If he's going, then I'm going. You hope it has that effect," Rivers said. "You really want to build a culture of that. 'Shoot, that's a gritty, tough, scrappy team that plays when they're a little bit banged up and they just find a way to be out there for one another,' because I do think that can build morale and builds trust, too."

But character alone can't overcome inconsistent play on the field. Rivers ranks in the top seven in attempts, completions and yards passing, but only has six touchdowns against four in-

terceptions this season. It's not an issue of diminishing physical skills, Rivers said. Rather, Rivers cites the occasional lapse in judgment that is keeping the offense from reaching its full potential.

There will be a time when Rivers physically can't play the position at a high level anymore. It's just not this season, he insists.

"I imagine that you just go, 'Golly, I've thrown that in route a million times and what happened?' I think that's how it will probably show up," Rivers said. "Thankfully, other than a handful of poor decisions and our record, nothing's showing up yet. And there's been quite a few plays where I've gone, 'Phew, still hang in there all right.'"

PELELIU

From Page 32

hood its second loss this season. Brotherhood was previously undefeated, but Momma Charu ended the former's bid for a 16-game sweep with a 16-3 crushing last Aug. 21.

Four Peleliu batters blasted a home run each in the victory with Rush Kintaro hitting 3-for-3 to go with his double and two RBIs. He also pitched a complete game, giving up 11 hits with one strikeout, while forcing Brotherhood's batters to hit grounders, line drives, and flyouts. Parker Yobech and Walter Macaranas each went 2-for-3 and had a double apiece. Mobel Ngingemelas belted a grand slam in the sixth inning for a 2-for-2 batting and four RBIs and two runs.

Bill Camacho, Tom Diaz, and Ken Kalen combined for 6-for-12 in batting and four runs, while Carl Hocog and Jerry Ayuyu each batted 1-for-3 and scored a run apiece to go with their three and two RBIs, respectively, for Brotherhood. Hocog had a three-run homer in the fourth, while Ayuyu belted a two-run homer in the second.

S.A. Masters 12, Momma Charu 9

Phil Celis, Jack Guerrero, and Reno Celis each finished with 3-for-4 in batting to lead the Masters to their eighth win in 14 matches.

Phil Celis homered, scored three times, and had an RBI, while Guerrero had two runs and two-run homer in the third. Phil Celis touched home plate twice and also scored a double and two RBIs.

Nizer Masayos went 3-for-4 with two runs—homer in the first—and two RBIs for Momma Charu, which despite the loss remained in third place with its 10-5 record. Bernard Kileleman, 1-for-3, had a two-RBI triple in the fourth.

Papa Bears 22, Red Torch 5

Batting leader Jojo Attao, 4-for-5, drove in seven runs, including a grand slam and a solo dinger in the second and fifth innings, respectively.

The Papa Bears improved to 4-10, while handing Red Torch its 15th loss in as many games.

Joseph Celis pitched a complete game in holding Red Torch to six hits with a strikeout and no walk.

SBL to start Saturday games for U25, Masters

By JON PEREZ
jon.perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Baseball League will be starting with their Saturday games this weekend, Oct. 7, to allow both divisions—Under-25 and Masters—to finish the season later this year or early January 2018.

SBL director Tony Rogolifo said that the unpredictable weather has been a huge problem for them as they were

forced to either stop or cancel scheduled games.

"We're going to start playing the rained-out games this Saturday so we can catch up with the original schedule. We're hoping to finish both seasons before the Little League, which usually starts in January," said Rogolifo.

"We thought we chose a perfect month for the season, but the weather is unpredict-



able and not cooperating with us. It will be bright and sunny early in the day then it would rain hard in the afternoon, making the field unplayable. There were also times when it would rain while we're in the middle of the game."

Saturday's games will have the U25 playing at 10am, while the Masters take the field at 6:30pm.

"We have no choice. We need to have extra games ev-

ery Saturday in order for us to finish the season before the year ends," said Rogolifo.

Games in both divisions were not played for more than a week because of the unpredictable weather.

According to the U25's original schedule, the finals would start on Dec. 14, while the title match for the Masters is set early December. Rogolifo said he would release the new schedule to the coaches within this week.

CNMI

From Page 32

and good rival," NMIFA technical director and CNMI U18 coach Michiteru Mita said.

Mita added that holding the Marianas Cup regularly is very important in the development of the sport and the CNMI and Guam's youth players.

"We need to play this kind of competitive international matches more often and improve together to close the gap with other countries. ASEAN countries that played in the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers in Thailand last month also often play together. That way they are get used to playing in international matches in the youth

level and they help each other improve," Mita said.

The game against the Guam All-Stars will also warm up the Teen Ayuyus for the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers that will from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8 in Australia. The CNMI squad will go up against Australia, Hong Kong, and North Korea in the Group J qualifier.

"The boys are busy with our training and with their clubs, but they remain focus on the AFC tournament. We are in a tough group so we really have to prove our development. If we play in the Marianas Cup and get good results, that will give the boys the confidence they need for the AFC tournament," the Teen Ayuyus head coach added.

Mita's wards will be tested by the selected players from Guam's Aloha Maid Minetgot Cup Elite Youth League. The Guam All-Stars will be coached by Mark Chargualaf, while Bryan Cadiz will be his assistant.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Women's U19 National Team will be handled by head coach Luam Khen Koo and his assistants Jimmy Tang and Irish Pagarao, while Catherine Attao-Toves is the squad's manager.

"We are looking forward to participating in this year's Marianas Cup. We look forward to tough competition and representing the NMI," Attao-Toves said.

The CNMI Women's U19 National Team is made up

of Carla Ballesteros, Elaine Enriquez, Jerlyn and Jeralyn Castillo, Anela Duenas, Kri- zel Tuazon, Gillian Villagomez, Paulynn Joyce, Chloe Salvosa, Guinevere Borja, Diana Maniacop, Dianne Pablo, Sharmaine Francisco, Angelica Carreon, Aira Ngalongalo, Jasmine Phan, and Brittany Wally. The Teen Ayuyus also have an 18-player lineup and it includes John Bucayo, Thaiphi Austria, Louie Calayag, Jonathan Capayas, Alex Park, Carlson Cruzat, Euly James Ermitanio, Sunjoon Tenorio, Clayton Izuka, Hark Joshua Galarion, Ryan Relucio, Joshua Abragan, Anthony Fruit, Mareko Tekopua, John Michael Rojas, and Sebastian Manabat.

CAROL

From Page 32

Nanami Saito. Before bowing to Wang and Astakhova, Saito and Katsumi won over Thailand's Kittika Aeb Iem and Lanlana Tatarudee, 6-1, 6-3, to march to the Final Four.

A finals victory in tomorrow's game will give Lee her third doubles crown and fifth overall. The doubles triumph will also hand the CNMI netter and her partner 30 (each) ITF Juniors ranking points.

Meanwhile, Lee is also in contention in the singles event. She will play in the semifinal round today (not yesterday as earlier reported) and will duel

the No. 3 seed Zheng Hua Xiao of China. The winner of the Lee-Xiao tiff at the lower half of the draw will meet in tomorrow's finals the victor between No. 1 seed Wang and No. 6 Yujiao Chen.

The singles winner in the 1st ITF Perlis Junior Championship 2017 will get 40 rankings points, while the runner-up will win 30. The No. 2 seed Lee is already guaranteed to get 20 points for making it to the semifinals of the singles play.

After the tournament in Perlis, Lee will compete in the 30th Sarawak Chief Minister's Cup, which is a Grade 3 event and offers more ranking points.

Early run leads Black Mamba, Empe Light to victory

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Black Mamba and Empe Light Blue banked on their strong starts to outclass their respective opponents in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Empe Light topped the Green Archers in the curtain-raiser, 98-88, while Black Mamba downed Spigen in the second match, 74-65.

Black Mamba outgunned Spigen in the first six minutes of play, 14-2, and never looked back, leading by as much as 23 (31-8) in the second quarter en route to its second victory in as many games. Alex Lauron and Mel Capalad joined forces in Black Mamba's early attack, as they scored 6 points apiece after the first quarter, which ended with their team on top by 15, 19-4.

Spigen fell behind early, as only Mike Umali hit the board for their squad, which was held to one field goal in the opening 10 minutes of the match. Spigen's struggle on offense continued in the second canto, as it did not broke into double figures until the last four minutes and change of the first half. With Spigen still looking for its rhythm, Black Mamba managed to stretch its lead to 21 at the break, 41-20.

Black Mamba went on to keep its double-digit advantage in the third period, as Spigen failed to contain Lauron and Capalad. Black Mamba ended the penultimate frame comfortably ahead, 61-41, allowing the team to let its guard down a bit in the fourth and giving Spigen an opportunity to cut the deficit to a decent margin.

Lauron top-scored for Black Mamba with his 21 points, while Capalad chipped in 18.

Adrian Flores led Spigen's losing cause with his 18 markers.

In the first game, Empe Light entered the win column after a 0-2 start as it outgunned the Green Archers early.

Empe Light built a 28-18 lead after the first quarter and sustained its strong start to hand the Green Archers its third loss in as many games.

Shooting guard Sean Rabastos fired 10 points in the opening canto to give Empe Light a double-digit advantage. He kept hitting his target in the last three periods to finish with a team-high 30 points.

First Game

Empe Light Blue 98 — Rabasto 30, Tengco 16, Gunacao 15, Gallardo 12, Reyes 11, Leung 6, Peredo 4, Espinosa 4.

Green Archers 88 — De-mapan 32, Ferrer 25, Danipog 11, Rotap 5, Yarofalir 4, Enriquez 4, Arreza 2, Tolentino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-18, 45-33, 71-53, 98-88.

Second Game

Black Mamba 74 — Lauron 21, Capalad 18, Ybanez 11, Gabaldon 9, Brien 7, Lan-

sang 5, Salazar 3.

Spigen 65 — Flores 18, Umali 15, Sanciango 12, Tobias 6, Cortez 6, Anicie-

te 2, Berline 2, Tibayan 2, Marilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-4, 41-20, 61-41, 74-65.



Attao, Camacho vie for Belau batting crown

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Papa Bears' Jojo Attao and the Brotherhood's Bill Camacho are hotly contesting the batting crown for the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League as the two sluggers are separated by only .065 heading into the final regular season game this Sunday.

Attao is currently on top of the batting leaders with his .786 (33-for-42) average, followed closely by the .721 (31-43) of Camacho, while Darwin Masaharu of Karui is at far third at .639 (23-for-36).

Both Attao and Camacho also figured in other statistical leaders with the former coming in at second behind Karui's Taylor Germance in

the most triples and RBIs with 15 and 41, respectively. Germance is seventh in batting (31-for-51, .608), but topped the most runs scored with 31, RBIs with 51, and home runs with 16. Payton Sakuma of Momma Charu is third in both RBIs (31) and homers (11).

Only one run separates Germance (31) and Camacho, and is joined by Brotherhood teammate Joe Lizama and Lefty Shiro in second place for the most runs scored with 30 each. Camacho also had five triples to place second behind Nizer Masayos' seven.

Lefty Shiro (11), Tito Laniyo (8), and Phil Celis (7) are the Top 3 in the most doubles made. Lizama is currently fourth in batting (35-for-55, .636), followed by Brotherhood teammates Julian Camacho (20-for-32, .625) and Jack

Diaz (23-for-37, .622). Jude Dickinson of the S.A. Masters (19-for-32, .594), the Brotherhood's Jerry Ayuyu (20-for-33, .583), and James Fleming of Peleliu (22-for-40, .550) completed the batting leaders.

The Papa Bears' Joe Celis is the pitching leader with a 5.71 ERA, followed by Leo Bobai of Momma Charu (5.96), the Brotherhood's John Diaz (6.57), Rush Kintaro of Peleliu (6.83), and the S.A. Masters' John Cepeda (7.23). Ray Villagomez of Peleliu (7.56), Karui's Lucian George (8.15), Tom Camacho of Sufa (9.19), Asahi's Tosh Beltran (9.50), and Steve Igisaiar of Karui (9.64) rounded out the pitching leaders.

Bobai and Leo Iskawa are tied with the most strikeouts in the league with 28 apiece, while Tom Camacho had 23 and John Diaz made 22.



Sweep for Paire; Kanoa FC-1 prevails



By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club went 2-0 this week, while Kanoa Football Club-1 earned a shutout win in the 2017 Dove Women's Fall Futsal League.

Paire played in the lone Division A game last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex and defeated Shirley's Football Club, 2-0.

For the third straight time, Guine Borja powered Paire to an easy win after scoring four goals. She made her goals in succession, getting her first in the 14th minute

and the last three in the 26th, 28th, and 32nd. Lyka Sally and Jeraldine Castillo drilled the two other goals for Paire with the former finding the back of the net in the 10th minute and the latter doing the same two minutes later. Diana Maniacop recorded the pair of goals for Shirley's FC after hitting her target in the ninth and 38th minute.

Paire completed a sweep of this week's games as it downed Kanoa FC in their Division B tiff last Wednesday, 4-1.

Anisa Villagomez posted two goals for Paire, earning

her first in the ninth minute and the second in the 34th. Miles River and Dorisallynn Ayuyu contributed one goal apiece, scoring in the 13th and 40th minute, respectively.

Kanoa avoided a shutout, thanks to Jenisha Dubrall's shot in the 32nd minute.

In the other match last Wednesday, Kanoa-1 defeated the U16 Developmental Team, 2-0. Paulynn Grace Joyce made both goals for Kanoa-1, registering her first in the 31st minute and the second six minutes later.

Dove



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stunning triple
lifts D-backs vs
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol nears doubles title



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, seen here competing in a Guam tournament last year, is in the finals of the doubles event in the 1st ITF Perlis Junior Championship 2017 after beating her semis opponent yesterday in Malaysia.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A doubles title is within Carol Lee's reach, as the CNMI player barged into the finals of the 1st ITF Perlis Junior Championship 2017 in Malaysia yesterday.

and then outlasted Japan's Akari Miyazaki and Yuki Sakurai last Wednesday, 6-2, 3-6, 10-4, to boost its doubles title bid.

Lee and Di Tommaso will go for the doubles championship tomorrow when they challenge the No. 1 seed Jiaqi



Wang of China and Kazakhstan's Anastasiya Astakhova.

The top-ranked pair secured the finals ticket at the upper half the draw

following a 6-3, 6-1 victory over the unranked Japanese duo of Nanari Katsumi and

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CNMI, Guam renew rivalry in Marianas Cup

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is sending

two teams to Guam to play against the hosts in the Marianas Cup 2017 this Sunday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team will be squar-

ing off against the Guam All-Stars at 4pm, while the CNMI Girls U19 National

Team will challenge the Guam Women's National Team at

7pm.

"I thanked GFA for hosting the Marianas Cup and for their continued and big support to our development. Guam is always our model

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Thaippi Austria, left, performs dribbling drills, while Joshua Abragan waits for his turn during a training session last month at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Lee and her Australian teammate Chiara Di Tommaso entered the finals of the doubles event of the Grade 4 tournament after beating Malaysia's Sursharneem Shamsuddin and the Philippines' Melanie Faye Dizon, 6-4, 6-3, in their semis game yesterday at the Tuanku Syed Putra Tennis Complex in Kangar, Perlis. The No. 2 seed Lee and Di Tommaso are at the bottom half of the 16-team draw and ousted two other pairs before eliminating Shamsuddin and Dizon, who gained a semis seat after knocking out Malaysia's Elsa and Elysia Wan, 7-5, 2-1 (retired). The CNMI-Australian duo swept Malaysia's Hannah Yip and Chloe Zhi Jing last Monday, 6-2, 6-0,

Peleliu, Brotherhood race for pennant

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Peleliu escaped with a 12-8 win over Brotherhood last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field, making the race for the pennant of the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League more interesting.

The two teams are tied for the lead with their similar 13-2 records heading to the final matches on Oct. 8.

Peleliu used two four-run innings in handing Brotherhood

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JON PEREZ

Momma Charu's Ron Olopai, left, eyes the ball during their game against the S.A. Masters in the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League at the Dandan Softball Field.